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Andover Townsman

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MARCH 16, 2006

75 CENTS

Andover man: \$10,000 fines when actors smoke on TV, stage

By Brian Davidson

Andover resident Michael Frishman believes it's time for the entertainment industry to quit smoking. And he's willing to hit the industry where it hurts — the pocketbook.

Frishman is pushing a bill to tax Massachusetts-based television stations \$10,000 for each time any of the five

leading actors of one of their broadcasts uses a tobacco product. The tax would also be applied to any company that requires an actor to smoke during a live performance at a Massachusetts venue. The money will go toward reimbursing the state for the high health-care costs that result from tobacco-related health problems, said Frishman.

"If they're going to project images of people looking sexy and glamorous while smoking, they at least ought to pay for it," he said.

While State Sen. Susan Tucker (D-Andover) does not support the effort, she submitted a bill on Frishman's behalf to the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development on

Tuesday.

"It was released with an ought not to pass (recommendation)," said Leslie Bernal, Tucker's legislative aide.

"I would like to think that once people recognize the validity of it, they will support it," Frishman said on Monday. "But do I expect support? Of course not. Most people will probably just

think it's humorous and frivolous."

Although Tucker declined to co-sponsor the bill, Frishman, who said he submits bill ideas with "some regularity," is pleased that she agreed to submit it.

"She's only submitting it at request," he laughed, "but at least this time she didn't try to talk me out of it."

I-93 ramps could mean more cars — or fewer

By Greta Cuyler

Selectman Alex Vispoli said he is worried that some proposals to build Interstate-93 ramps into Ballardvale could clog Andover streets instead of easing traffic.

In fact, one Andover resident analyzing the nine ramp options being explored says two options could nearly double traffic in some areas. Supporters of the interchange plan have said the ramps are supposed to open up commercial land to development and ease traffic on local streets by allowing workers easier access to I-93.

The interchange project has the largest potential impact on the town in 50 years, said Vispoli.

"We're not going to blindly sign off on a plan without assessing the impact," he said.

A new Andover I-93 Interchange Committee will analyze the traffic impacts of nine alternatives for the proposed interchange. The local roads that could be most affected by this project include Route 125, River Street, Clark Road, Ballardvale Road, Dascomb Road and

Continued on page 2

THERE HE IS...



Andover High School junior Dave Espindle was crowned the 2006 Mr. AHS last Friday. He beat out 11 other contestants. For more photos, see page 4.

Tangled Web

Many kids post private facts about themselves online — inadvertently making themselves targets without their parents knowing

By Brian Davidson

A scary reality of the Internet-driven 21st Century is that sexual predators now can stalk victims from their own homes. Just two weeks ago, two men were arrested in Connecticut for using Myspace.com, a free online community consisting of more than 60 million members, to arrange sexual encounters with an 11-year-old and a 14-year-old girl.

Myspace members — many of whom are teenagers or younger — can search for other members' profiles based on a number of criteria including gender, age, location and school. Search under "Current Andover High Students," and you'll find 662 member profiles, which include pictures and contact information, available for viewing. If accurate, that means more than a third of the entire AHS student body has joined the site.

"Myspace seems to be everywhere in the news these days," said Andover parent Brenda Himmer, "but never for anything positive. I don't think there's a kid out there, whether they be 11 or 14, that thinks they'll be a victim of this... but they have been."

Andover Police Chief Brian Pattullo said when a member of the area's regional cyber-crime group goes online posing as a young girl it never takes long before someone begins an inappropriate sexual conversation with "her."

"The Internet has a lot of great things, but it also can set you up for a lot of bad things," said Pattullo. "It's an open door to predators. It can be a way of bringing predators into your home."

His advice is for parents to keep computers in common areas so that they can check what is being discussed. He tells youth not to post any personal information, especially information that will tell people where they live.

Besides disclosing personal information, some youth also post content that is not G-rated. One AHS student, for example, who claims to be 18 years old on her profile, writes next to her picture, in the space reserved for her motto: "Exchanging body heat in the passenger seat."

Himmer, who doesn't allow her 15-year-old daughter to use Myspace.com, said part of the Internet safety problem is that parents are not as computer savvy as their kids, and aren't keeping up with their children's online activities.

"My computer knowledge is extremely limited," Himmer admitted, "but as limited as it is, I was able to sign on to Myspace and find tons of kids that my daughter grew up with, whose parents would be appalled at what they have posted on there."

According to parenting author Stacey DeBroff, Himmer's concerns are not unfounded.

"It's really easy to imitate a teenager online. And pedophiles know that."

STACEY DEBROFF, FOUNDER AND CEO OF MOMCENTRAL.COM

Continued on page 4

Resident pushes for fathers to have equal custody

By Greta Cuyler

Like most parents in Andover, Simon Ringham turned to indoor activities to keep his children occupied as it began to rain last Sunday afternoon.

Olivia Rose, 9, and Simon Charles Jr., 7, tried to put together a jigsaw puzzle. They also speculated about who killed Mrs. Peacock in what room with what weapon in a spirited round of the Clue! board game.

Ringham cherishes the time he spends with his children. Under the terms of a joint custody agreement, he sees them every other weekend and every Wednesday. He has them for one week every winter and four weeks every summer. When the

children are not at their father's house, they live with their mother in Melrose, about 20 miles away.

Ringham supports shared parenting legislation currently being discussed in judiciary subcommittee on Beacon Hill. HB 919, known as "An Act Relative to Shared Parenting," seeks to establish a baseline of shared legal and physical custody following divorce where a family court determines that both parents are fit to care for their children.

A Boston group called Fathers and Families is behind HB 919.

Currently, there are two forms of custody in Massachusetts courts today, legal custody and physical

Continued on page 5



Simon Ringham enjoys time with his two children. He'd like to see the courts more open to awarding equal custody of children to fit parents.

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REAL ESTATE RESULTS REAL ESTATE RESULTS

Town gives OK to kill pond weeds

By Greta Cuyler

The Conservation Commission has unanimously approved a neighborhood association's request to spray herbicide in a local swimming hole under the town's jurisdiction.

It will cost nearly \$6,000 to rid the Glenwood Road Basin, or "dug pond" of two invasive weeds, fanwort and Brazilian elodea, that have been found there. The Foster's Pond Association hopes to raise the money it needs to spray the slow-acting herbicide sonar across the 3.9-acre basin.

"The commission's decision to allow herbicide use on conservation land was, I believe, unique to the situation," said

Conservation Director Bob Douglas. "With the invasive suppressed in both ponds, the chances of reinfestation will be considerably reduced."

The private neighborhood association approached the commission in early February, concerned that two invasive weeds could spread from the basin into the larger pond. The two bodies of water are separated by a narrow berm. The water level is often high enough so that water flows freely between the two.

Last year, fanwort was found to have taken over about half of Foster's Pond 120 acres, prompting the private neighborhood association to hire a 18-foot air boat to distribute herbicide

across the pond to eradicate fanwort.

After the treatment, the consultant hired by the Foster's Pond Association declared the process a success, with 99 percent of the weed eliminated from the pond. The consultant recommended treating the basin to minimize the infestation of the pond, after finding fanwort and the other nuisance weed in the adjacent basin.

The association's goal is to raise the money for the second round of herbicide by this spring. In total, residents in the association will have spent nearly \$50,000 in private donations to kill weeds in the Foster's Pond area.

Andover looks at traffic impact

■ I-93 INTERCHANGE

Continued from page 1

Andover Street.

"Our first concern is the traffic impact to secondary streets in Ballardvale and the Route 125 area," Vispoli said. "Second to that, our concern is environmental."

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission had hoped to release its findings by the end of the month. But Chris Huntress, a local landscape architect with experience working on large-scale development projects, said representatives from the Federal Highway Administration told the regional planning commission earlier this week that it would not accept an interchange justification report until local communities have appropriate time for input.

"One of the best things that happened (Tuesday) morning was that the planning commission admitted that March dead-

line was not realistic," said Huntress.

Andover has requested, but not yet received, specific traffic data to help determine the best options for the town.

"They're very frustrated that they haven't gotten (the information) yet," said Vispoli, saying it is difficult for the committee to make an assessment about the pros and cons of each proposal without knowing the traffic implications.

At a meeting Tuesday morning, Huntress, a Ballardvale resident, said he received traffic volume information, but the town still needs specific trip data, showing how long it would take to travel various routes in town under each alternative.

All of the nine options presented by the MVPC have elements of concern, said Huntress. Based on the volume estimates, two options increase the traffic volume on Clark Road by more

than 84 percent by opening up nearly two million square feet of development space without providing traffic improvements, he said. Another three options, the "loop options," reduce traffic on Andover's roads somewhat, said Huntress.

But, he said, "My gut reaction is that the loop alternatives, while they might be the best alternatives for Tewksbury and the Mills Corporation (and Mills Corp.'s proposed mall), are not in the best interests of Andover."

Three other alternatives known as the "diamond" and "trumpet" options, reduce traffic volume on Andover roads up to 20 percent, he said. "These are probably the best options for Andover," said Huntress.

"This project has a lot of momentum, but our major concern is that the town of Andover's interests are protected before anything happens," said Vispoli.

ANYBODY'S GUESS



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Rose Young of Haverhill brought a painting of Jacqueline Kennedy to the antiques appraisal event "What's It Worth?" at the Andover Historical Society last Thursday. Because the painting was never owned by the Kennedys, Stuart Whitehurst said it is not as valuable as Young might hope. She planned to donate it the Kennedy Library.

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Wednesday, March 8 - At 9:55 a.m., Mark S. Hutchins, 49, of 157 North Main St., was arrested and charged on outstanding warrants: one count of disorderly conduct and two counts of threatening to commit a crime.

At 8:55 a.m., Stanley J. Cannon, 23, of 54 Abbot St. was arrested and charged on outstanding warrants for a passing violation, reckless operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

Thursday, March 9 - At 2:11 p.m., Wayne Francis, 28, of 5 Brentwood Ave., Wilmington was arrested and charged with a red light violation, failure to wear a seat belt, speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license (subsequent offense). He also had outstanding warrants for trespassing and violating an abuse-prevention order.

At 8:14 a.m., the fire department was called the scene of a car fire. Police arrived after learning of a possible suspect fleeing from the scene. The suspect was described as a Caucasian male wearing a light blue sweatshirt, blue jeans and carrying a bag. He reportedly fled in the direction of Route 495. As a result, Philip A. Whisler, 34, of 139 Spring Street, Medford, was arrested and charged with burning a

motor vehicle.

At 8:23 p.m., Michael E. Pierce, 47, of 67 Spruce St., Apt. 1, Fitchburg, was arrested and charged on outstanding warrants for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and driving an uninsured motor vehicle.

Friday, March 10 - At 12:08 p.m., Jesus M. Rodriguez, 18, of 340 South Broadway, Apt. 2, Lawrence, was arrested and charged on a municipal violation for living in Lawrence but using an Andover address to attend Andover High School.

At 12:54 p.m., David Luicha, 39, of 47 Webster Lake Road, Apt. A12, Franklin, N.H., was arrested and charged on outstanding warrants for assault and battery (two counts), assault with a dangerous weapon and larceny over \$250.

At 7:01 p.m., Thomas Dixey, 25, of 52 Butler St., Salem, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Wednesday, March 8 - At 12:48 p.m., a woman reported she had locked her keys in her car with her two children, 10 months old and 3 years old. Officer reported that woman was able to get into her car.

Tuesday, March 14 - At 5:47 p.m., police received a call from a woman who locked her 18-month-old in her car. Elm Street Auto was able to get the car unlocked.

At 10:08 a.m., an employee of a local business called to report that a subject smashed a windshield in the parking lot of MKS Instruments. An officer reported it was a break into a motor vehicle and suspect was described as a white male 20-25 years old, wearing a coat and a white hat.

AUTO ACCIDENTS

Wednesday, March 8 - At 1:03 p.m., police received word of a crash with personal injuries on Elm Street. An ambulance was called to check out a female and a male who hit his head on the windshield.

THEFTS

Wednesday, March 8 - At 12:51 p.m., police received a report from school officials on River Road of a theft in excess of \$250.

At 5:49 p.m., a resident came into the police station to report

Continued on page 34

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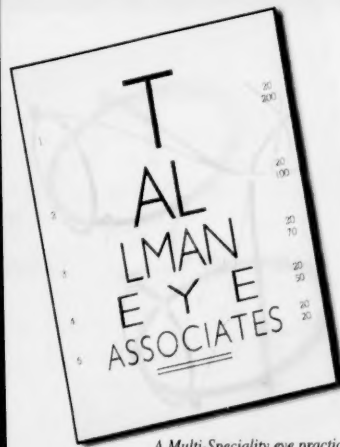
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IN BRIEF

PAST AND PRESENT



OLDER PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY; MODERN-DAY PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

The top photo of Main Street was taken around 1936. The building in the center housed Petersen's Men's Shop and John's Barber Shop. It was demolished to make room for the new Woolworth 5 and 10 store. The bottom photo shows the same area as it looked this week. Do you have an interesting photo? Share it with us at 33 Chestnut St.

Every home to need carbon monoxide detectors by end of month

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Chief Charles H. Murnane Jr. inform homeowners that as of March 31, carbon monoxide alarms will be required in all residences with potential sources of carbon monoxide. The vast majority of homes will not be required to install hard-wired systems although, where hard-wired systems are required by regulation,

the deadline is Jan. 1, 2007. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations recently passed emergency regulations to implement the law known as "Nicole's Law."

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "Each year we see the devastating effects of carbon monoxide poisoning. Many of these incidents are avoidable with early detection and warn-

ing as provided through this new law."

"The fire service urged passage of this legislation and the Andover Fire Department stand ready to educate and assist homeowners meet the new requirement for carbon monoxide alarms," said Murnane.

Residents can call the Fire Prevention Office at 978-623-8307.

Parents, teachers want override

By Colin Steele

Throughout this year's budget process, town officials have assumed there's no appetite for a Proposition 2½ override.

Last night, parents and teachers said otherwise. More than 80 people attended a budget forum at Memorial Hall Library, and most were school proponents who challenged the idea that voters would not approve an additional tax increase at the annual Town Meeting. They rallied after Finance Committee Chairwoman Joanne Marden said a \$1 million override would add \$75 to the average property tax bill.

For Diane Costagliola, a parent who said she pays \$1,000 a year in user fees, the override could

reduce those fees and actually save her money. If town officials talked about an override in that more positive light, fewer people might oppose one, she said.

"How do we know (that there's no appetite for an override) if we don't present it properly?" she asked.

Although \$75 may not seem like a large tax increase, property taxes have risen 35 percent in the last five years, Marden said. And some residents also have to pay betterments to connect to the town's new sewer system.

When it comes to paying more, people are saying, "I just can't," Marden said. "Enough is enough."

Last chance to hear from town candidates

The Service Club of Andover has scheduled a candidates debate on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 a.m. at the Greater Lawrence Technical School on 57 River Road in Andover. Breakfast will be served and all of the candidates running for town office have been invited. The debate will begin at 7:30 a.m. Selectman Alex Vispoli will moderate.

The public is invited. Residents are asked to RSVP at 978-470-0409 so there will be enough food. Residents should enter through the front door of the school and turn right. They can park in the lot to the right of the entrance way.

The League of Women Voters is also planning another debate, for Saturday (see letter, page 10).

Blood drive March 22

The Charlie Sheehan Memorial and the American Red Cross are teaming up to help ensure that a safe and adequate blood supply is available when needed. Residents can donate blood on Wednesday, March 22, at St. Robert's Church, 198 Haggetts Pond Road. Donor hours are 2 to 7 p.m.

Anyone 17 years of age or older, weighing 110 pounds or more and feeling in good health may be eligible to donate blood. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) with any questions about donating blood, or visit www.newenglandblood.org

Finegold office hours

Rep. Barry R. Finegold will hold open office hours on Monday, March 20 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Andover Senior Center.

Quote, unquote . . .

FROM A PARENTAL STANDPOINT, we need to trust our kids. But we also need to check on them from time.
— Schools Health Director David Nichols, about parents being aware of how much information their children are sharing with others online. (Story, page 1)

News Calendar

Thursday, March 16

Housing Authority, 100 Morton St., 7 p.m.

Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees, Town Offices, second-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

Financial Planning Sub-Committee, School Administration Building, school committee room, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 17

Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, third-floor conference room, 10 a.m.

Monday, March 20

Board of Health, Town Offices, second-floor conference room, 6 p.m.

Finance Committee/Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

Elderly Tax Aid Committee, Town Offices, second-floor conference room, 10 a.m.

Board of Selectmen, School Administration Building, school committee room, 6 p.m.

Conservation Committee, Town Offices, third-floor conference room, 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22

Finance Committee/Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

Design Review Task Force, Town Offices, second-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 23

Disability Commission, Memorial Hall Library, activity room, 7 p.m.

Conversation across religious lines at college

A panel event aiming to increase interreligious dialogue, "Peace for Israelis and Palestinians: A Conversation Among Jews, Christians and Muslims," will take place at Merrimack College next Wednesday through the Center for the Study

of Jewish-Christian Relations. This event is free and public.

The discussion will take place on Wednesday, March 22 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Cascia Hall, Merrimack College. For more information, call the center at 978-837-5428.

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Out there, online

WEB PROFILES

Continued from page 1

"Kids will post their class schedules, phone numbers, e-mails, even home addresses," said DeBroff, the founder and CEO of momcentral.com. "They're thinking 'There's 60 million people on here, who cares about me?' They think it's just for their friends to look at. They don't realize it's public."

DeBroff said schools became alarmed about dot-com communities like Myspace, Facebook and Bebo long before most parents did, as many students were signing on to the sites from school computers. Many schools have since been working to combat their popularity, DeBroff said, by informing parents and students of the potential dangers involved.

"The problem is," she added, "the more negative publicity they get, the more kids want to check them out."

As part of an effort to put more emphasis on Internet safety in Andover's public school curriculum, health and technology teachers are trying to teach kids to be more mindful of what they post on the Internet, said Andover Public Schools health coordinator Dave Nichols.

"You have to be cognizant that when you're writing something on the Internet, the wrong people could be reading it," Nichols said.

Nichols said protecting children from online danger doesn't mean restricting them from using the Internet, but rather educating them on how to use it responsibly.

"It's how kids communicate these days," he said. "From a parental standpoint, we need to trust our kids. But we also need to check on them from time to time and make sure they have the proper tools to manage this unbelievable communication device."

Pattullo said the police department will soon be doing some outreach of its own, to show parents how easy it can be to become involved in an inappropriate conversation online.

Himmer said that just as important as what kids are writing on the Internet, is who they are writing it to.

ONLINE MOTTOS

More than 660 people saying they are Andover High students have pages on Myspace.com, an Internet site where people can post information about themselves. Some posted comments:

Laura, 18: "Why drink and drive when you can smoke and fly?"

Sam, 18: "Live for today...plan for tomorrow...party tonight!"

Amy, 18: "I'm the one who gets the best pills."

Anna, 17: "Live it up. Drink it down. Laugh it off."

Caroline: "I can be fun...without any clothes on!"

"A lot of times they have no idea who they are talking to and can easily get sucked in," she said.

While Himmer worries that online communities are making it easier for sexual predators to find victims, DeBroff calls the number of kids willing to set up offline meetings with someone they met over the Internet "alarming."

"They need to realize that it's really easy to imitate a teenager online," DeBroff said. "And pedophiles know that."

Pattullo agrees. About three years ago, police received a complaint from an Andover parent after learning that his daughter had been talking to someone online. Police went online posing as the daughter, they set up a time to meet the person near Friendly's, and when a middle-aged man arrived he was arrested.

Himmer knows it's easy for pedophiles to find a teenager online.

"If I can get on there and find what I found, you can be sure that these guys can get on there and find exactly what they're looking for," she said. "The people who can probably do it best are using it for the wrong reasons. My concern is that there's nothing to be gained by joining (these type of Internet sites), and a whole lot to be lost."

MR. ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL



For the sportswear competition, Jonathan Traub dressed the part of the ultimate — and accurate — paper boy.

The 16th junior to earn the title of Mr. Andover High School is Dascomb Road's Dave Espindle, who was crowned Mr. AHS 2006 at the Collins Center last Friday night.

But heavy will *not* be the head that wears the crown. During the evening, Espindle (pictured on page 1) and his fellow contestants made it clear that having fun was at least as important — OK, far more important — than winning the crown. The four other finalists for Mr. AHS were Doug Allen, Justin Colombo, Sayo Maldari and Mark Brogan.

Espindle impressed early in the sportswear competition, dressed as the smiley-face guy from the Wal-Mart commercials. Hopping around the stage in a round yellow costume, he shot down prices with a toy bow and arrow.

Contestants competed in three categories to reach the finals: sportswear, talent and dream date. The finalists were each asked one question to determine the winner.



PHOTOS BY
TIM JEAN

Ryan Jennings raps dressed like Fred Flintstone during the talent competition of Mr. Andover High School last Friday night.



Sayo Maldari began his "dream date" with his sponsor Leslie Walke at a restaurant he could afford. It picked up from there.



Alex Ornstein displayed his talents as a singer and guitarist.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACE

Candidates discuss funding priorities

By Anita Fritz

The four candidates for two seats on the School Committee last night contemplated what they'd do with an extra \$1 million and flinched at the thought of having to cut \$500,000 out of the school budget.

"I'd put the million toward the school district's five-year rebuilding plan," incumbent Anthony "Tony" James said.

"I'd simply eliminate fees and work on reducing class sizes, especially at the high school," incumbent Arthur Barber said.

"I'd restore programs that have been cut and reduce fees that are particularly high," candidate Ann Weld said.

Write-in candidate Robert Coffill said he'd spend it all on the students.

Those were their responses to questions posed to them by members of the audience at The League of Women Voters candi-

dates debate at Memorial Hall Library. About three dozen people attended.

James said he'd find creative ways to generate revenue. Weld said she isn't sure she could cut \$500,000. Barber said he'd look at non-classroom personnel. Coffill said he'd look at food and facilities, not people.

The four candidates said they don't like seeing lean budgets pit town versus school.

"It doesn't serve anyone on either side," Weld said. "The school is a critical part of town services, and we're all facing the same problems with rising costs of insurance and fuel and cuts to state aid. We feed on each other and we have to look at the entire community."

"We're all in this together," Barber said. "The budget has to be balanced, and we all need to work diligently to do it."

Coffill said the town and

schools need to be open and honest about the budget process and keep residents informed.

"I do believe that children and teachers come first," Coffill said.

"This isn't a town versus school issue," James said. "Maybe we can't fund all services, so we meet, study the needs of the town and schools and see how close we can come to closing gaps. The School Committee needs to work closely with selectmen and the Finance Committee to solve the problem."

All four candidates agreed the schools can't continue to just maintain services but must improve them.

Each told voters about their experience with contract negotiations.

Coffill said he's done a lot of collective bargaining and said he doesn't believe one contract always works for everyone.

James spent many of his professional years supervising people who negotiated contracts.

Barber said he spent his last year on the School Committee negotiating contracts.

"I do it every day," Weld said. "I'm the mother of three boys."

Weld said she was also part of contract negotiations while a member of the School Committee in Duxbury, where she last lived.

Two vie to be Andover rep. to Technical School

Ken Hamilton, Andover's representative to the Greater Lawrence Technical School District, hopes to return to his post. But to do that, he'll need to hold off challenger Jerry Silverman, a former selectman who spent 50 years in education.

The two men explained to about two dozen people at the Andover Senior Center last Friday why each believes he is the best man for the job.

Silverman noted that the superintendent of the district will retire soon. Silverman said he has the experience to find a worthy successor.

He also wants to see more residents take advantage of the school's resources, especially since Andover High has cut most of the types of courses offered at Greater Lawrence.

"We have a jewel in west Andover that many of our own students don't recognize," said Silverman.

Hamilton said he made two pledges when he became the GLTS representative four years ago: he'd oversee the more-than-\$50-million renovation-and-expansion project and focus on student achievement.

GLTS students have performed well on the MCAS.

As for the expansion project?

"I'm proud to say we've finished on time and under budget," said Hamilton.

— Neil Fater

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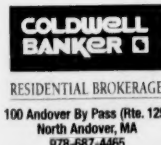
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Sizing up selectmen views

By Anita Fritz

Selectmen candidate Joseph Leone has said he'd like to see the town approach projects — such as the youth and senior centers — with more urgency. But Leone has stayed clear of anything resembling an attack on incumbents Brian Major and Ted Teichert as the March 28 election approaches.

The three candidates for two selectmen's seats were more agreeable than argumentative during a debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters last Thursday night.

They agreed on almost every subject, including building a new youth center, purchasing open space, having no tax overrides nor new fees for residents and creating over-55 housing.

At Friday's senior center debate, Teichert added that his own parents had moved out of town "because they couldn't find affordable housing to meet their needs."

The sharpest moment from Thursday may have been when Leone criticized the board for not doing enough to anticipate financial problems.

"I think the board needs to avoid the budget crisis that it faces every year by starting to look forward," Leone said.

Leone and the others agreed that the biggest problem the town faces is next year's projected budget deficit. Town officials have estimated the deficit at about \$500,000.

"We meet every week during budget season and it's always a challenge," Major said.

"We always get there (close the deficit) before Town Meeting," Teichert said.

At Friday's debate at the Andover Senior Center, Leone noted that it wasn't long ago that residents looked at a \$100 million budget as a glass ceiling. "We've busted through that glass ceiling and we're going up like a sky-rocket," he said.

Major and Leone also said during the debate that they were not interested in using the nearly \$80,000 assistant town manager position as a new services department head. Teichert said he would be willing to try the idea out for a year and then review it. Major and Leone agreed it would create another and unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, although only Major is ready to cut the position outright.

The candidates only differed slightly at Thursday's meeting on the matter of which town services are essential.

Teichert said all services are essential and he wouldn't want to cut any. Major said education and public safety are most important. Leone said schools, public safety, open space and the town's seniors are paramount.

All three agreed that the location behind Doherty Middle School is the best place for a new youth center.

"I believe it's a viable location," Leone

said.

"I'm definitely in favor," Teichert said. "We don't want to thwart the youth from building a center."

Major, who has been a proponent of a community center for youths and seniors, said he thinks building the youth center behind Doherty is "absolutely fantastic." Asked at the senior center on Friday how his support for a youth center meshed with his support for a community center, Major said building a youth center behind Doherty would create "a campus setting" and be available to seniors. "It really opens up those facilities for use," he said.

On Friday, Leone said he did question building a center with a gym, since Doherty Middle School has a gym.

Each of the candidates agreed on the town continuing to purchase open space.

"It's what makes Andover great," Leone said.

When asked whether the town should consider freezing some of its employees' salaries until the budget crisis is over, all three replied it would be almost impossible because of labor contracts.

The three also agreed the town should avoid overrides of Proposition 2½ tax limits at this point and should not charge any new fees to increase revenue.

"I'm opposed to new fees because once they're in place they almost never go away," Major said.

"Some might make sense, but for now I'd say no because many times they pit one department against another," Teichert said.

Paying for trash disposal was brought up and quickly shot down. All three candidates want to avoid charging residents a fee they can't write off on their taxes. They also agreed that with the town's aggressive recycling program, charging fees for rubbish disposal would raise little in cash and just anger residents.

The night ended with Leone asking people to vote for him because of his experience with multimillion dollar budgets.

"I'm not afraid to say no and to make the hard choices," Leone said.

Major told voters how much he has enjoyed being on the Board of Selectmen, bringing the people together and solving problems.

Teichert, telling voters he's the only candidate who was born and raised in Andover, said he looks forward to serving the town for another three years.

Major has served three terms on the board, and Teichert has served two terms. Leone is looking to serve his first term.

The town election will be March 28 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Andover High School's field house.

Neil Fater contributed to this article.

Fathers want more time with kids

■ FATHERS' RIGHTS

Continued from page 1

custody, said Philip Byers, an Andover divorce attorney dealing in child custody and visitation cases. He said legal custody affects a parent's right to make inquiries into and decisions about a child's schooling, medical care and religious upbringing. Physical custody spells out where a child sleeps and lives.

The shared parenting bill under discussion would affect the physical custody of a child, said Byers, because it says that there would be a presumption of joint physical and legal custody at the outset of a custody case.

Mothers traditionally are granted physical custody of their children, especially when mothers stay at home and fathers work outside of the home, said Byers. But over the past two decades, fathers have been playing a more hands-on parenting role with the children.

"Judges, for the most part in Essex County don't like shared physical custody, because, quite frankly, it doesn't work," said Byers. "You would still see that the majority of children are awarded to the mother, unless the fathers are more hands-on as a physical parent than the mom."

He said judges tend to award joint physical custody in cases where parents have already successfully implemented a plan.

Byers sees the shared parenting bill as being in the father's best interests, not necessarily the child's.

"I think the studies I've read and the experiences I've had would say children do best with access to both parents but not in a situation where they're sleeping in mom's house on Wednesday and Dad's house on Thursday. For a young kid in particular, it's disrupting and confusing and judges don't like it," he said.

Ringham moved to Andover nearly two years ago after living in various apartments in the Boston area. He said he settled in Andover to be closer to his children.

"It's our belief that in situations where parents get along with each other and it's geographically appropriate, children who get to spend equal time with both will do better," said Ringham.

Ned Holstein, who founded Fathers and Families in 1998, was one of the few fathers to receive joint custody of his children at the time of his divorce, he said. But as he went through the legal system, he said, he perceived a pervasive hostility towards fathers in the court system. Following his divorce, he began hearing about the plight of other fathers.

"I heard more and more stories about fathers," he said. "At first I dismissed them because they seemed so extreme. But after hearing 30 to 40 of these stories, I began to think there might be something there."

Joint legal and physical custody is ordered in only 8 percent of cases in Massachusetts, according to Fathers and Families.

Ringham said that since his divorce, which became final in

2001, custody arrangements concerning his children have changed. While at one point his ex-wife had full physical custody and Ringham could make supervised visits only, at another time Ringham was granted sole physical custody, he said.

Ultimately, however, he believes children are better off with access to both their fathers and their mothers, assuming both parents are fit.

Ringham points to a study from the *Journal of Family Psychology* that supports shared parenting, along with a primer on shared parenting issues by the Massachusetts family courts.

"We think this (bill) is a very gentle nudge in the direction of shared parenting," said Holstein. "It is needed because the studies about children's welfare are refuting the old health view that the child only has one 'physical parent' and (showing) that the child is deeply and strongly attached to both parents and needs frequent and loving interactions with both."

Fathers and Families does not support shared parenting in cases where a parent was involved with domestic violence, said Holstein.

The National Organization for Women is one of several organizations that have come out against the proposed bill.

"Our opinion is that we're not opposed to shared parenting," said Terri Febbo, the co-president of Massachusetts NOW. "We just think there should be a better way to evaluate (physical custody). As a blanket policy, it's not a practical approach."

Man indicted in local Savings Bank robbery

A man accused of multiple bank robberies, including one at the Andover branch of the Savings Bank in November, was indicted in federal court on March 1.

Joseph M. Hart, 24, of 19 Fenwick St., Somerville, has been charged with committing 10 bank robberies and one count of attempted bank robbery. The crimes were committed at suburban bank branches around Boston during October and November 2005.

If convicted, Hart faces a maximum 20 years in prison for each count of robbery and the attempted bank robbery, followed by three years of supervised release and a \$250,000 fine.

A man walked into the Savings Bank at 84 Main St. at 3:55 p.m. on Nov. 1, Andover Police said at the time. He was described as a white male, 6 feet tall, wearing a dark jacket, wire-rimmed glasses and a Red Sox baseball cap. He handed a note to the teller, demanding cash.

Hart seized \$1,000 in the Andover heist, alleged the federal indictment.

The other bank robberies occurred in Winchester, Arlington, Lincoln, Wakefield, Belmont, Medford, Danvers, Littleton and Somerville. The attempted bank robbery was in Malden.

—Greta Cuyler

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BOOK REVIEW

Murder on the Orient Express

BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

Reviewed by John Chartier and James Caron

In this week's review, John and James examine one of the most infamous murder mysteries of all time, *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, arguably the best mystery writer in history.

WHEN A READER HEARS THE PHRASE "murder mystery," the image of a stately English manor immediately jumps into his or her mind. The suspects are all gathered in a library, and the ingenious detective is running through the crime one more time for all of them, knowing that the killer is sitting right there in the room.

It can be argued that Agatha Christie, the best-selling fiction author in history, invented this genre.

In her mystery, *Murder on the Orient Express*, the reader is thrust into a world where murder and logic are inseparable.

The *Orient Express* was once the most lavish and luxurious way to travel through Europe. Royalty, the wealthy, and those shrouded in mystery all lined its compartments, as the train thundered through Venice, Prague, London, Paris, Istanbul, and other European cities. In *Murder on the Orient Express*, the train has to stop abruptly one snowy night in Eastern Europe. On board are many unusual characters, such as a princess and a count, and all are hiding secrets of their own.

When a guest is discovered murdered in his compartment, it baffles those on the *Orient Express*. The man is found stabbed 12 times and the door to his compartment is locked from the inside. It is up to Detective Hercule Poirot to discover who this man was, why someone would want to murder him, and perhaps most terrifying of all, who still on the train is the murderer?

Murder on the Orient Express is one of the best murder mysteries ever written, with an ending that will leave the reader's mind spinning for hours. This novel merits a second reading, just so the reader can see what small, intricately placed clues he or she missed the first time around.

Christie's writing style is superb, and her sense of timing is absolutely magnificent. It is no wonder that this woman, nicknamed the "Queen of Crime," has more than two billion copies of her books in print today.

We recommend this book for readers ages 13 and older. Although it is a great novel that can be enjoyed by all, those in this age group will be able to follow along with the story best, and will probably be better able to notice some details that are hidden more deeply in the reading.

We give *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie a nine out of 10. It is a classic novel that is sure to enchant readers. If the reader enjoys *Murder on the Orient Express*, we recommend he or she try some of Christie's other mysteries. The book *And Then There Were None* was previously reviewed by us and also received a high score. Any books by the "Queen of Crime" however, will be enjoyed by mystery lovers everywhere.

So, sleuth your way to the local library or bookstore today, and pick up a copy of *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie. If a mystery happens to jump your way, take advantage of the opportunity to make "Dame Agatha" proud.



Members of the Pike School Orchestra are (at left, standing in front) Jacob Shack, the founder and coordinator; seated at the piano are James Pramberg and Rainer Crosetti; standing in back (from left) are Sara Teplow, Nicole Zohdi, Calvin Chao and Eric Sirakian.

A nucleus of talent

Student musicians at Pike School form their own orchestra

By Brian Davidson

ANDOVER'S JACOB SHACK isn't your typical musician. It's rare enough that the eighth grade Pike School student plays the viola. Even more unusual is that he plays it in an orchestra that he founded and coordinates himself.

After polling the sixth-through eighth-graders at Pike School to see how many musicians were among them, Shack found that there were enough to compose an orchestra, something the private school has never had.

"Since Pike doesn't have a big music program, I thought it would be good for the school," Shack said. "We have a lot of talent here. I thought it would be a good way to showcase it."

Still in its first year, the Pike orchestra consists of 13 middle-school students who play the piano, violin, chello, flute, saxophone, percussion, and viola. Most of them take private music lessons, or have already been playing for one of the preparatory school orchestras in the region.

Music teacher Larry Robinson co-directs the group with librarian Francesca Mellin, a violinist in the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra. "It's great for kids to get to

experience playing in a group," said Mellin.

"You can be as fabulous as you want playing by yourself, but to play with other people is much more fun."

The unfunded orchestra practices every Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school, which doesn't make participating easy for members who don't live in Andover.

Sixth-grader and drummer James Pramberg comes from Newburyport. On Thursday mornings, he has to come to

orchestra practice straight from the hockey rink. "It's kind of like a full day before I even get to school," he said.

In the group's first and only performance, Robinson arranged the music of two Beatles' songs, *Golden Slumbers* and *Here Comes the Sun*, which the orchestra performed during a school play.

"It went really well," said Mellin. "Now we're going to regroup and figure out when and what we're going to perform again."

The orchestra has definite plans to play at this year's graduation, during which five of its members — almost half the group — will be playing the graduation song for themselves.

"We have a lot of talent here. I thought it would be a good way to showcase it."

PIKE EIGHTH-GRADER JACOB SHACK OF ANDOVER, FOUNDER OF THE PIKE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

ON CAMPUS

Northern Essex Community College announced the appointment of 38 Andover students to the dean's list for the fall semester.

Named to the dean's list for the semester were: Afshin Alian, Tammy Barrette, Amy Brodbine, Robert Bruner, Linda Campbell, Kathleen

Chapman, Chris Fawcett, Katelyn Feeney, Elin Frank-Anderson, Brian Gilbert, Emily Grant, Jo-Anne Guillett, Lynette Hickey, Thuy Ho, Robert Jennings, Sheila Koffman, Mary Krieger, Carrie Kropiwnicki, Lori LaPlante, Jackie Lee, Janine Leonard, Megan Lewis, Zule Massil-

lon, Cynthia Morell, Stacy Morin, Pamela Norton, Rebecca Park, Geneva Pustell, Alyssa Rastiello, Daniel Robichaud, Valerie Samuels, Cristina Santiago, Theresa Sheehan, Efrain Sierra, Ronwyn Smith, Jillian Ternullo, Susan Waldie and Lili Xu.

To be included, students must attain

a grade-point average of 3.3 or higher within the semester, carry six or more credits during the semester and be matriculated in a degree program.

The following students from Andover were named to the Quinnipiac University dean's list for the fall semester:

Rachel Hodge, Kierstyn Kalman, Taryn Kalman, Megan Finn, Brittany Roy, Jeffrey Rabinovitz, Christine Tower, Lisa Valleria and Brittany Wadbrook.

Students who excel in scholarship by earning a grade-point average of at

Continued on page 7

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ON CAMPUS

■ QUINNIPIAC DEAN'S LIST

Continued from page 6

least 3.0 with no grade lower than C are recognized by being placed on the dean's list at Quinnipiac.

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hours that have been graded on a letter (C through A) basis, to be eligible.

□□□

Geoffrey Kent Wuehrmann of Andover, a student at Wake Forest University Winston-Salem, N.C., has been named to the dean's list for fall semester.

Students who achieve a 3.0 or higher grade-point average were named to the list.

□□□

The following students from Andover have been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at the University of Vermont:

Emily M. Bishop, a political science major, is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Laura D. Cohen, an art education major, is a junior in the College of Education and Social Services.

Danielle E. Ganek, with an undeclared major, is a sopho-

more in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Samantha Lederfine Paskal, a community and international development major, is a freshman in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Kristen L. Leonard, a psychology major, is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences.

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better, and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

□□□

John L. Limauro II, a junior from Andover, is majoring in history at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va.

He is among the cadets who were recently named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2005-06 academic session.

To be eligible for the dean's list at VMI, a cadet must have a grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and no grade below C.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. John L. Limauro.

□□□

The following students were named to the University of Massachusetts Boston dean's list for the fall semester:

Erich Birkby of Andover is enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts.

Christopher Jee is also of Andover and is enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts.

To qualify for this academic honor, the student must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA.

□□□

The following students from Andover were named to the dean's list at Suffolk University in Boston for the fall semester: **Jared Adams, Brendan Day, Stephen Garabedian, Jeffrey Harnois, Amy Herlihy, Heather Maloney, Jaime Morocco, Rakesh Singh and Sunita Singh.**

□□□

The following Andover students were named to the dean's list at Salem State College in Salem, Mass. for the fall academic semester: **Nicole M. Brown, Lisa Davidson, Sarah N. Funk, Emma J. Hanson, Krista A. Hanson, Elizabeth J. Klayman, Delilah T. Magarido, Mark L. Moskal, Sara A. Murphy, Jonathan D. Shaw and Adam B. Spang.**

Students must attain a grade-point average of at least 3.0 to be placed on the dean's list.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools next week, March 20-24:

Elementary schools

Monday: Shaker salad with garlic bread, pancakes with ham sticks, chicken McSchool with fries, chicken teriyaki wrap, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Fish-and-chips, pizza stick with soft pretzel, chicken nuggets with fries and green beans, "gogurt," fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Mozzarella sticks with fries, spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread, nachos with seasoned beef and cheese, bagels and string, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Beef-filled ravioli with garlic bread, french toast with sausages, hot dog with fries, d'animals day, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Turkey dinner, chicken nuggets with mashed potatoes, pizza, boxed breakfast, fruit, veggie, milk, chocolate chip cookie, lucky tray.

Middle schools

Monday: Roast pork with potatoes and corn, stuffed crust pizza, chicken McSchool, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Two chicken fajitas, two bagel pizzas, toasted cheese sandwich with soup, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Fish-and-chips, stuffed crust pizza, chocolate chip pancakes with sausages, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Chicken, broccoli and rotini, bakery pizza, cheeseburger with fries, fruit, veggie and milk.

Andover High School

Monday: Two beefy burritos with salsa, stuffed crust pizza, baked mac and cheese with garlic bread, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Two toasted cheese sandwiches with fries, stuffed crust pizza, spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Shepherd's pie, stuffed crust pizza, chicken parm sandwich, fruit, veggie and milk.

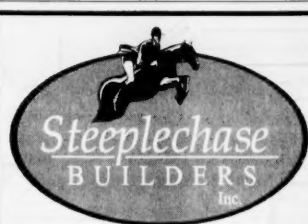
Thursday: Chicken quesadillas, stuffed crust pizza, chicken, broccoli and rotini, fruit, veggie and milk.

Friday: Roast turkey with all the trimmings, stuffed crust pizza, meatball sub, fruit, veggie and milk.

□□□

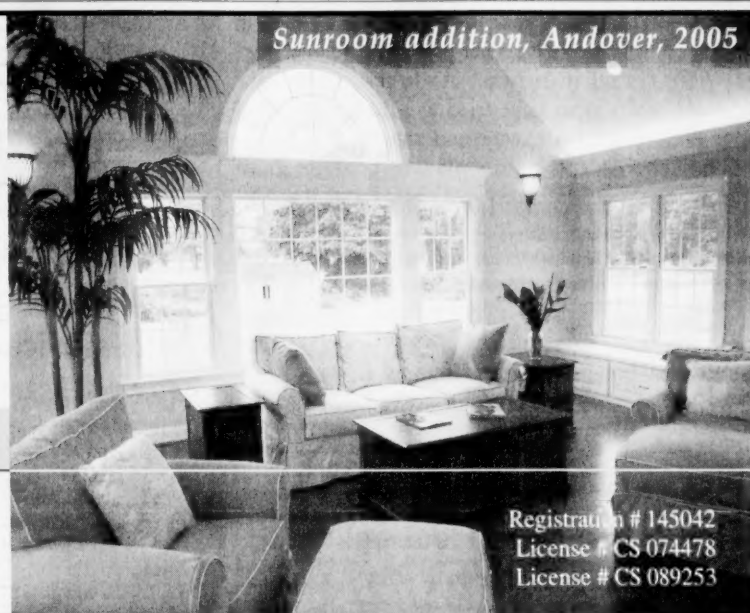
Premium lunch choices are served daily at the middle schools and Andover High. AHS also offers a Courtyard Barbecue featuring grilled food; the Collins Center Café; Pastabilities; and a Market Basket cart with other food choices daily.

For prices or other information about lunches, call Karen Pappa, food services director, at 978-623-8622.



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Opinion

Talk is cheap

AS HE PERFORMED A RAP for the talent portion of the Mr. Andover High School competition last Friday, Justin Colombo urged listeners to "check me out on Myspace." The line drew appreciative laughs – and showed that such Internet sites are as much a part of teenagers' lives as soda and cell phones.

As hundreds of Andover High School students post information about themselves on such sites, it's difficult to know who is posting true information and who is posting lies. "There is a lot of erroneous information that's posted. You just don't know who you're talking to," says Andover Police Chief Brian Pattullo. "I don't think they are aware of how vulnerable they are." While most teens use the site for fun, they also must be careful not to post information that could let a criminal know where they live. Parents can remind their children about the real dangers that many kids often brush aside – and be aware of what is going on in cyberspace.

Opportunities for dangerous Internet encounters are everywhere – and parents cannot be. Pattullo said he recently attended a demonstration in the attorney general's office where an official posed as a 14-year-old girl. Within minutes, people were engaged in online conversations with her that Pattullo describes as "very sexual in nature." Andover police have arrested adults who have tried to arrange meetings with people they knew were underage.

The schools and police plan to provide more forums to show interested residents about the dangers of online postings, and how to stay safe. However, the primary responsibility will always lie with parents and youths themselves. So, let's talk about it.

It is easy for predators to get in touch with trusting kids online. It should be just as easy for parents and youths to discuss Internet safety.

Web question

How to best protect kids online?

Last week's *Andover Townsman* Web-site question was: Do you think the town should eliminate the assistant town manager's position?

290 people voted
• 171 people, or 59 percent, said, "Absolutely, yes. This is an opportunity to save nearly \$79,000."

• 55 people, or 19 percent, said, "Yes. I believe it's always better to cut a management job than front line service workers like police officers and firefighters."
• 18 people, or 6 percent, said "I'm not sure. I look forward to learning more about this issue over the next few weeks."

• 17 people, or 6 percent, said "No. The town manager says he needs this person to oversee service departments, and he should get it."

• 29 people, or 10 percent, said "No. Town departments need more oversight, not less. One man can't do it alone."

This week's *Andover Townsman* Web-site question addresses Internet safety. Parents might never be able to prevent kids from using the Internet, a potentially dangerous resource (see *page one story*). But which of the following do you believe will have the largest effect to make things safer?

- Ban online communities.
- Teach children about the potential dangers of the Internet in schools.
- Increase parental supervision of children's Internet activities at home.
- Increase law enforcement supervision of the Internet activities of known sex offenders.
- Realistically, there's nothing we can do. The problem is out of control.
- Other.

To vote, surf to www.andovertownsmen.com.

LETTERS POLICY

THE *Townsman* accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters must be typed and no longer than two, double-spaced pages. All letter writers must include addresses and phone numbers with their letters. The phone numbers will not be published. The paper reserves the right to edit letters at its discretion. Reasons for editing include editing for length, clarity and style.

Letters should be received by the *Townsman* by Monday at 5 p.m. for consideration in that week's paper. They may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. Letters sent by e-mail should be sent to Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsmen.com. As a general rule, the paper does not publish anonymous letters or thank-you letters.

Following a long-standing policy, it also does not publish letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election. That means this issue is the last that will have such letters before the March 28 town election.

SPRING WAS IN THE AIR



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

While the weather began to cool again, residents still tried to enjoy the first signs of spring on Tuesday. Above, Patrick Burke (left) passed the ball to his brother Brendan, who hoped to score over his other brother Chris during a friendly basketball game in their driveway.

LETTERS

Youth services: Priceless asset

Editor, *Townsman*:

I support preserving Andover Youth Services as it is currently managed and organized.

Everyone in Andover should be well aware that AYS has become a priceless asset to the town through countless hours of hard work, dedication, and genuine love for the town's youth. The lives that have been touched by the programs and relationships this department has created are truly innumerable. Somehow, with one of the smallest budgets of any town department, AYS has managed to maintain and grow its services for years.

I understand that this year that small budget is in serious jeopardy. The idea of cutting "Our Town" or a full-time position would greatly inhibit the ability of AYS to continue to do what it does best – enriching the lives of kids, their parents and grandparents, and even young adults like myself. Though I left Andover after graduating from AHS in 2000, the knowledge and confidence I gained as a Andover Youth Council member is with me always.

I can clearly remember drafting the infamous college essay about my "most meaningful high school activity." Often a daunting task for high school seniors, it was not difficult for me to write 800 words about the Andover Youth Council, Bill Fahey and Glenn Wilson. AYC showed me that a great leader has the ability to take control, but accomplishes the most when everyone in the group steps up to be a part of the leadership in their own way. This skill gave me the confidence to be a leader in many future endeavors.

As I sat down last summer to write an essay for admittance to a student affairs program in graduate school, I was asked to trace my passion for working with students to its root. It didn't take long to determine it had all started in a small office on Bartlett Street.

Let's not forget about the people who make the town of Andover what it is. My family moved to Andover because of the value the town places on its children and young adults. The school system is excellent and there are wonderful opportunities for youth to get involved, no matter what their interests. Yes, I left for college academically prepared to be a successful student. I also left well prepared to be a leader. I hope someday when I move back to Massachusetts with my own family, that I can count on my kids reaping the same benefits I gained.

Kristen Arnold
(formerly Herlihy)
Novi, Mich.

Youth Service programs prepare kids like me for life

Editor, *Townsman*:

I graduated Andover High School in 2000, and my family lives at 3 Strawberry Hill Road. Though I have moved to New York City, I have taken the Andover experience with me as I've begun my career. Growing up in a town where the youth services program was strong helped me formulate my career path. I urge the town to reconsider the budget cuts, department consolidation and layoffs at Andover Youth Services.

I now work in the fashion industry as a journalist at runway shows, and I owe much of my inspiration and experience to the youth fashion runway program "Keep it Wild," run by AYS. My participation was key to me finding my way to my current career, and the experience through Youth Services mirrors what I do at my job in many ways. Without the support of the town, and the experience I gained, I might not be where I am today.

My youngest sister Natalie, a current student at AHS, is heavily involved in theater, and I would hate to see the programs available to her to be limited, potentially endangering her intended career path for lack of opportunity to gain experience in these formative years. Also, she is one of the many young people who will be denied the opportunity to participate in the "Our Town" summer jobs program if the budget is cut. The program gives high school and college kids summer jobs at AYS where they organize summer outings and work at playgrounds and Rec Park.

There are undoubtedly countless young people in Andover with interests beyond theater or fashion that are yet to be honed, and without the support of Youth Services, many dreams might never be realized. The department has always functioned on limited funds, and was never intended to be a money-making

operation. The cuts proposed will require it to raise more than \$80,000 just to keep its staff in place. The money it raises will not go towards the town's youth, creating new programs, or keeping the existing, well-loved programs in place and progressive.

As one of the kids who attended the public schools and relied on the town for extracurricular activities, I know the programs available to young people need to be varied and promote creativity, a healthy and safe social environment and the arts.

To underline the significance of AYS to the town, Bill Fahey was the commencement speaker at my AHS graduation, and there was no one else who meant more to more people in my graduating class. Fahey, his staff and the amazing work they do promotes youths' movement forward into the world. That is a commodity we cannot afford to cut.

Angela Gaimari
New York, N.Y.

Plurality report: School families have power, numbers

Editor, *Townsman*:

The *Townsman* reported that at a town budget meeting, Police Chief Brian Pattullo said, "Seventy percent of households do not have children in the schools." ("As schools hold firm, budget battle looms," March 2.) Simply quoting this statement out of context is misleading in several respects. First, the most recent US Census data for Andover (andoverma.gov/publish/census.pdf) indicates that fully 40.3 percent of Andover households have children under 18. Not all of these households have school-aged children, of course, and some households choose to send their children to private schools. The difference of 10 percent would have to be defended, however. Summary statistics from the census, which represent the latest and greatest information available from government at any level, are silent on the matter of who attends what kind of school. Also, in 2006, we may

find that immigration, live births, the aging of younger-than-school-aged children and an economic downturn might well have increased the public school population. Recall how flummoxed we all were to see the unpredicted enrollment at Andover High this past fall. (To be fair, the estimate would also have to account for the aging of some of the school-aged population, and emigration.)

Second, the 70-percent estimate is reasonable; let's assume it's defensible. More importantly, this means that fully 30 percent of households have children in the public schools (the glass is partly full). When compared with census data, this still would make households with children in public schools a larger group, demographically, than any other household category, including nonfamily households (nearly 25 percent) and households with individuals 65 and older (23.5 percent). In other words, while households with children in public schools are not a majority, they are a plurality. Further, by virtue of having children, these would be larger households. Many of these households have more than one school-aged child, and most consist of two parents, and so represent a larger constituency than the household figure would indicate. (The constituency for Youth Services and the proposed youth center would be similar.)

When we take the 70-percent figure out of context of the other data, it seems that families with public school children make up a powerless group of households, which should be resigned not to

have its interests reflected in the town budget. This is an argument familiar to those of us who have moved here from towns with inadequate spending on education. In context, however, this clearly is a powerful constituency with a place at the table in budget discussions. We should be neither cowed into acting in discord with our interests, nor misled toward unreasonable demands. Some of us have apparently conflicting interests: we are indeed "the sandwich generation," caught between the needs of our children and those of our aging parents. But we are adept at both acting within our limited budgets and resolving conflicts at our kitchen tables. We bring those skills, experiences and predispositions to the budget discussions.

Finally, the *Townsman* does a disservice to the community by featuring dueling, out-of-context "pull-quotes" from School Committee Chairwoman Debra Silberstein and Pattullo. This helps perpetuate the false "school side" and "town side" dichotomy. What makes Andover strong is its high level of social capital, the interconnectedness that makes this a good place to live. We ought to leverage that social capital in creatively meeting residents' needs, even in lean times. (In the interests of full disclosure, I must state that I have two school-aged children who participate in AYS programs, and my spouse is an employee of the school system.)

Richard M. Hudak II, Ph.D.
68 Stevens St.
(Hudak is a Merrimack College assistant professor of sociology.)

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LETTERS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTION

James is advocate for rebuilding

Editor, Townsman:

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the citizens of Andover to support Tony James for School Committee. I have worked with James on several projects and am always amazed by his fair, open-minded attitude. He has impressed me with his ability to get right to the problem at hand, his collaborative nature, and his attention to details. During these past three years on the School Committee, James has been an integral part of the negotiating team for new

contracts. He has also been an advocate for restoration and rebuilding, a responsive committee member who respects the educators' opinions on the educational issues, as well as an innovative leader through his association with the recently created Andover Coalition for Education.

It is with tremendous confidence and enthusiasm that I endorse him for School Committee.

Diane Costagliola
15 Belknap Drive

We'd be lucky to keep incumbents

Editor, Townsman:

Those of us who live in Andover are about to have a special opportunity. Tony James and Art Barber are running for reelection to the School Committee. These are not easy times for anyone who serves in town government. Opinions are emphatic and varied. Money is tight, and priorities matter, perhaps now more than ever before.

The people we want to serve us on the School Committee should have the excellence of our schools as an unquestioned priority. At the same time we

need people who think, whose heads are thoughtful and filled with judgment. We need individuals who understand finance and yet deeply appreciate the needs of the student, our ultimate concern.

My vote will be for the reelection of these two gentlemen. They have served us well. They want to continue to do so. Knowing both of them, I feel we can do no better. We are fortunate they wish to give us three more years.

Larry Larsen
3 Bryan Lane

James proved himself on contract

Editor, Townsman:

Andover voters should reelect Tony James to the School Committee. This is a critical juncture for Andover's school system: budgets have been cut, fees have been raised and taxes are ever-increasing. It makes sense to re-elect someone who has broad management and outstanding people skills in dealing with budget crises and economic difficulties.

I have known James for more than 20 years as a friend, business colleague and community leader. Having worked in many different countries around the world and possessing a doctorate in chemical engineering, James has a broad perspective and extremely strong problem-solving skills. His own children have attended schools in many different locations around the globe. This gives James a unique perspective for what works and what doesn't work in a variety of educational settings. But I believe his greatest asset is his people skills.

Many of us recall those dark-

er days of 2004: state funding had dried up; budgets were slashed and there were proposals for mass teacher layoffs. It was in March 2004 that James became chairman of the School Committee and worked tirelessly to negotiate a fair and honest settlement with the teacher's union whose contract had expired. During this time, he worked with town managers, union officials and School Committee members to hammer out the best possible package for both the town and the teachers. In the end it was his people and problem-solving skills that won the day. He was respected by all parties to the negotiations for his honesty, integrity and sense of fair play.

Like all of us with children in the Andover schools, James wants the best for his children and the best school system that Andover can afford. Re-electing him will reinforce Andover's strong commitment to provide the best possible education for our students.

Raymond Cannon
54 Abbot St.

Hard worker Barber tells it like it is

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Art Barber's reelection to the School Committee. I have known Barber and his family for many years. I consider him a good friend and have stood with him on many sidelines and in ice rinks cheering on Andover teams. I personally have witnessed his dedication and commitment to Andover's athletic programs and public schools. It is extraordinary.

Barber is a stand-up guy who tells it like it is. His reputation for honesty, integrity and hard work is second to none. During his three-year term, he has never missed a School Committee meeting. I know he has logged countless other hours, attending town board meetings, talking

with parents and working to effectively resolve issues. He is readily accessible and willingly takes phone calls from concerned parents and citizens, day or night. I know because I have sometimes been the one making the phone call.

I also respect Barber for working tirelessly to balance the need for excellent public schools with the need for fiscal responsibility. He is not afraid to ask questions and make sure every dollar counts for us – the people of Andover. He is intelligent, creative, respected and just an all-around good guy. I appreciate how hard Barber has been working for our community, and that is why I want him to continue to serve on the School Committee.

Peter Prudden
23 Enfield Drive

James brings analytical approach

Editor, Townsman:

Tony James is a valuable member of the Andover School Committee. I was pleased to serve on the School Committee with him. He has a business analytical approach to issues, a team ethic, and a strong belief in the importance of quality schools in Andover.

We need his dedication and

creative ideas. This year the town budget crisis requires leadership and courage. There could be difficult decisions ahead that may result in reduced programs at our schools. In challenging times, we need experience, sound judgment and proven leadership.

Tina Girdwood
15 Tucker Road

Barber asks the tough questions

Editor, Townsman:

Our elected and appointed officials spend countless hours hashing out the budget and doing the "School-versus-Town Dance" each year. If you've been able to attend or watch any of the various board meetings, PAC meetings, or candidate's forums, you've seen Art Barber (current School Committee member) in action. He's the one asking some tough questions, coming up with creative alternative funding ideas (like hiring a grants coordinator with private funds, who will potentially bring in significant dollars for our school district), and being dedicated and accessible to the public.

Although I have been active in Andover in many different roles, it is my role as a taxpayer (who does not support an override) and a parent of two children in the public school system, that leads me to support Barber for reelection. He has served his first term and already made an impact, but his work is not done. I have personally served with Barber on some committees and I know his dedication. The voters are fortunate to have someone with his experience, educational background and commitment.

My plea to the citizens is to take a more active role in the future of our town. We are facing difficult fiscal times in all departments and the current budget discussions need

the input from more than just special interest groups. I urge Andover people to get out and vote in our local election March 28 and attend Town Meeting in April.

A typical March town election in Andover, draws about 2,200 to 3,300 voters each year. Over 19,500 people are registered to vote in this town (considered active as confirmed by census). That is an average of 14 percent of the registered voters participating in town elections. Last April fewer than 800 registered voters attended Town Meeting. The highest attendance at Town Meeting in the past five years has been approximately 2,000 voters (and that was in a proposed override year).

At a recent candidate's forum, it was noted that Andover was the largest community in the country that had a Town Meeting form of government. That was something "to be proud of." The opportunity to listen to one another and share thoughts at Town Meeting is a rare privilege, but is Town Meeting serving as a "voice of the voters" in Andover? Is our minimal participation something to be proud of?

More than ever, now is the time to get involved – or at least get out and vote. Start on March 28, by voting for Barber for School Committee.

Tracy Callahan
6 David Drive

Experienced Weld is a motivator

Editor, Townsman:

I am a friend and co-volunteer of Ann Weld. Having worked with her on several major fund raising projects for the Bancroft Elementary School, and having seen the incredible dedication and passion with which she applies herself to her volunteer work, I am very happy to support her candidacy for the School Committee.

Most recently, Weld and I co-chaired the fall fund-raising event for Bancroft. Weld was successful not only in raising what will be the lion's share of the PTO funds for curriculum enrichment for the entire year, but she also succeeded in energizing the Bancroft community. Her ability to reach out to the parents, teachers and business owners who support our school was amazing. She motivated a community that had been somewhat demoralized in the face of budget cuts. She brought out the best of a community that, like many other communities in Andover, was perhaps tired of the extra stress that raising money to support the system requires.

Weld achieves success in her support of our school for many reasons – not the least of which is passion. Her resume speaks for itself. Her experience as a town planner and PTO president, along with her other critical roles in support of the schools and towns that have been her home is very impressive. On a purely nuts-and-bolts basis, Weld knows how to get things done. But on a personal level, she has a passion to make things better for our children, as well as for her own, that is unequalled by any parent that I have known in my 10 years of raising children.

One candidate featured in last week's *Townsman* claimed that a reason to vote for him was that none of his children "were products of the Andover school system." I disagree with that line of thought. To me, having children in the Andover school system can only heighten the passion with which one supports our schools.

As a dedicated parent to three children in the Andover school system, Weld has this passion. She also has enough passion to go around for all of our children.

Jennifer Bentley
64 Salem St.

Write-in candidate Coffill: Here's why you should vote for me

Editor, Townsman:

I have been a resident of Andover since 1989, and I'm very concerned about the future of our public schools. I urge all taxpayers to write in Bob Coffill for School Committee. I have been an elementary school teacher; I have been an elementary school principal, high school principal and served as a superintendent several times. I have been involved in charter, private and public schools. I have a wealth of experience in both the private and public sector. I am currently an adjunct professor in educational administration, was a CEO of a industrial staffing company and currently I am involved in a health-care company as a chief operating officer. Through my experience I will do the right things for all students. I will confront issues head on, I will make sure our schools live within the budget and bring fiscal discipline to every line item of the school budget.

I have gone through our school finances and now know how the money was actually spent over the last two years. I regularly

watch how the School Committee functions on cable TV. I'm against an override. No more tax increases. I will not cut elementary teaching positions or threaten the community with cuts like elementary positions. I will eliminate all user fees, including busing fees and let High School students park for free. I will not charge students for attending kindergarten. I will do a thorough work audit of all employees. I will give the community the true figures in salary raises. I will put students first and will not build a school budget around the needs of adults. I will access all school contracts and confront issues that need to be addressed so that all students have equal access to learning and opportunities. I will hold all employees accountable for outcomes and performances in our schools. I will eliminate waste in the budget, I will show the School Committee how to generate revenue without fees and tax increases. We will utilize creative solutions in the areas of facility, food service, corporate endorsements and technology. I will call for partnerships with

mental health providers to support students with issues by utilizing third-party billing. I will also implement a zero-tolerance policy at the high school and work with the police department to implement it.

I will make sure that Andover applies for all grants that are available through the state Department of Education. I will call for a CEO-type of leadership and not allow the social political agenda to control the schools. I will make sure that decisions are in the best interest of students and taxpayers, not special interest groups. If other towns can have a school system without fees then it is time for Andover to do the same.

It is time for change and no more status quo. Our legislators will advocate for more state aid, but the time has come for the School Committee to work within the budget. It is time for action and no more rubber stamps. It can't be business as usual; our students and taxpayers deserve better.

Bob Coffill
7 Quail Run

Barber: A parent, educator and businessman to tackle school problems

Editor, Townsman:

It is with great enthusiasm and confidence that we support Art Barber for reelection. As a parent, he realizes the importance of providing our students with the tools they need to compete in an ever-changing world. As an educator, he works tirelessly to ensure an equal and quality education for all Andover students; one which will develop

flexible problem-solvers who will give back to their communities-at-large. His keen business acumen enables him to grasp the issues, ask the hard questions, offer solutions, and see them through.

Barber is a steady force on the School Committee, a man of integrity. He is not quick to judge, but rather, is a patient and respectful observer, always willing to exam-

ine both sides of the issues. As importantly, he is truly a representative of the people. On countless occasions, we have witnessed his thoughtful consideration of the opinions of the townspeople as he welcomes their input at PTO/PAC meetings, sports events, and in his many travels around town.

Al and Karen Robbat
2 Matthew St.

James looks for new ways to pay for education

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to relay why I will be voting to reelect Anthony "Tony" James to the Andover School Committee on March 28.

James is a man of great intelligence who has dedicated the past three years to learning the Andover educational system and has brought a reasoned approach to the School Committee. He has delved into the budget model, worked to identify the "must haves" versus the "nice to haves" during a time of fiscal difficulty and understands the need for fiscal responsibility.

His efforts to co-found an Andover Educational Foundation – the proceeds of which will soon fund a grant writer for the Andover schools – shows he is willing to take initiative toward exploring funding sources beyond the traditional local, state and federal dollars. In that regard, James recognizes the fiscal reality that we need to be innovative and aggressive in discovering additional revenues to augment our school budget.

In my professional capacity as state representative, I have seen James be a tireless advocate on behalf of Andover receiving a greater share of state revenues. He has been present at four meetings with me since the beginning of this year, both in Andover and at the Statehouse, where he was able to advocate directly with the House Chair of Educa-

tion for a better return in per student funding for suburban schools. This "Acton initiative" has a phased-in goal of acquiring \$1,500 and eventually \$2,000 per student for Andover, which currently receives only \$908 per student. James has been an active participant in the movement to explain that suburban schools aren't receiving their fair share and have done much to tread water over the last four years. The movement is growing and will hopefully culminate in a minimum per student floor that will assist Andover.

In response to a shared concern about the need to receive increased state reimbursement for special education costs, James put me in contact with a school superintendent he had heard at a conference who has vast knowledge of SPED funding. That man is now assisting me greatly as a plan is being assembled to push for both increased funding back to Andover and to identify ways to incentivize more in-district provision of service.

Given his tremendous level of effort and commitment to continuing educational excellence during fiscally challenging times, I believe James has proven himself worthy of a second term.

Barbara A. L'Italien
5 Harper Circle

(L'Italien is state representative for the 18th Essex District, which includes Andover.)

Barber didn't make excuses, he helped parents

Editor, Townsman:

As the proud parent of four sons who received the gift of an Andover Public School education, I firmly and resolutely endorse Art Barber's candidacy for reelection. My support for Barber is a direct result of his willingness to listen and champion the concerns of a group of parents who aligned with one another to address a pressing situation within our school system. It was two years ago this month that I contacted Barber for the first time to enlist his guidance and support. I found him to be extremely approachable,

knowledgeable, credible and responsible. He understood the sense-of-urgency required to address the problem and offered concrete remedies of fixing the situation versus a myriad of excuses to delay and negate change. We were successful in our efforts thanks to having him on our team. He is, without question, dedicated to his position and passionate about the betterment of our schools. In the upcoming school election, I will join many parents and vote to keep Barber on our team.

Emilie Evans Gilbert
204 Chestnut St.

Ex-selectman Silverman should serve again, as GLTS rep.

Editor, Townsman:

Many residents remember former selectman Jerry Silverman. If you are new to town you may only know his collection cans that raise funds for our July 4 fireworks. We assure you that's a drop in the bucket compared to all he does for our town. Others remember him as assistant principal at Andover High School. Remember when he left and became a principal in Georgetown? Does anyone remember him as their baseball or football coach?

Now that he is retired – well, he'll never totally retire – he has the time to bring his kind personality and decades of educational experience to the Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical School District. Silverman's expertise, experience and knowledge as a former school principal and selectman will be effective if he is elected. However we would also like to talk about the man, the person, our family's former neighbor.

Long before he became a selectman, his intellect and kindness was known to all Shawshen. We can remember him always running in and out of his house to help anyone in any way he could. He was especially kind and helpful to our mom and all us kids growing up. Farther down the street at AHS, as an assistant principal, he could always tell who was telling a tale and how to make them 'fess up. He didn't just hand out detentions; he made kids understand why they were off base and how to move on and above. He was the mediator and a leader in our neighborhood. Silverman was the one who could bring other neighbors together even after a spat or an all-out feud.

We hope our classmates and Andover residents remember Silverman and vote for him on March 28.

Annette Silva Grams, 28 Corbett St.
Scott Silva, Milton, N.H.
Craig Silva, West Wardsboro, Vt.

LETTERS ON TOWN ELECTION

Teichert sees all departments as vital

Editor, *Townsmen*:

We are writing today to express our support of the candidacy of Ted Teichert for reelection to the Board of Selectmen. Teichert has served two terms on the board. We have come to know him on a personal basis more recently, during work in support of the senior center building proposal over the past two years. He is one of only two selectmen to support the construction of a new senior center during both attempts last year at Town Meetings. His support was unflagging.

As Teichert has said several times during the recent campaign, all departments are vital to the fabric of the town of Andover. Public Safety and the Schools are paramount, but we would live in a much different town if we did not have the fine public support services and social services that we enjoy. Many of our departments are operating under severely restricted budgets in these difficult times, as uncontrollable costs eat up an ever-growing portions of the operating budget.

Teichert has demonstrated the balance required to consider the

needs of all townspeople, not just the vocal minorities. We would like to encourage all registered voters, all of whom are members of Town Meeting, to take the time to study the issues that affect us all, to communicate with their elected and appointed leaders, and to vote at the election on March 28, and to attend and make your voices heard at Town Meeting in April.

We ask them to support Teichert with one of their votes on March 28.

Jo-Ann & Tom Deso
81 High St.

Major asks needed questions

Editor, *Townsmen*:

We are writing to enthusiastically support Brian Major for reelection to selectman.

We have known Major for more than 10 years. From the beginning he has been a major player and participant with the youth services and an advocate for youth programs in Andover. He has actively supported the building of the youth center with his time and talents and involvement. Major is a long time resident of Andover, a graduate of Northeastern University, and

has served effectively as selectman. We think he has the best interests of the residents of Andover in mind, both the young and those of us that are older (the young at heart). He offers a clear thinking, sensible, committed and steady hand (and heart) to the town leadership. He has been a long time supporter of the Youth Center, and at the same time is sensitive to the desire for a senior center, and listens to both voices.

His ideas to help balance the budget are well thought out and supported by sound budgeting principles. Major has asked an interesting question regarding the necessity for an assistant town manager, when we are trying to prevent cutting direct services to residents, be they fire, police, library, or youth or community service personnel. What are the benefits of making Steve Bucuzzo a department manager over youth, senior, veterans and recreation services? Does he have specific expertise in these areas? How would these departments benefit? What would the loss be to these departments? Certainly they would lose by not being directly present at regular town meetings. Mostly, Major is asking the tough questions, and looking for ways to make it work.

Gary and Janet Clarke
5 Carriage Hill Road

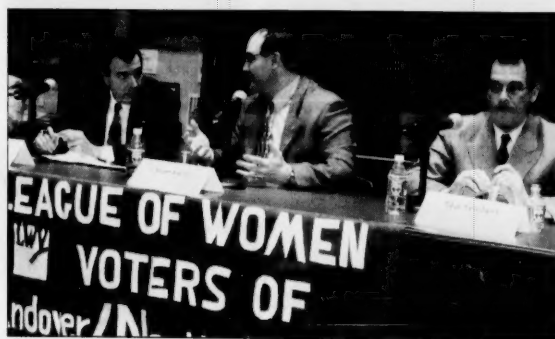
Current leaders look after finances

Editor, *Townsmen*:

It is my pleasure to recommend that the citizens of Andover vote Brian Major and Ted Teichert into office again at the upcoming elections. They have both carried out their responsibilities and duties as selectmen with a keen eye as to protect the town's credit rating relative to the bonding, which is most important.

They have attempted to try to mediate problems when they occur and they show a sincere sensitivity to the needs of the people and the well being of the town.

Paul R. Higginbottom
22 Railroad St.



Selectmen candidates Joseph Leone, Brian Major and Ted Teichert spoke at a League of Women Voters' debate last week. But no sound was recorded for broadcast on cable television.

LWV working to arrange new debate

Editor, *Townsmen*:

During the broadcast of the LWV's candidates forum, the selectmen and School Committee candidates appeared speechless. Let me assure you they were not. All the candidates were present, well-prepared and articulate. The League apologizes to both the candidates and the community for the technical glitch that prevented the sound from being broadcast during the majority of the debate.

The LWV is attempting to gather the candidates again for another broadcast discussion. However, as you might imagine given the current budget and election season, their dance cards are pretty full. It does not appear that we can gather the selectmen candidates together again, but we have a tentative arrangement to gather the School Committee candidates next Saturday. Assuming this works out, that discussion

will be rebroadcast during the week and a half before the election.

For community members who would like to get to know the candidates better, there are several opportunities. For a one-on-one discussion, look for many of them in downtown Andover on Saturday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon; they are often to be found on Main Street between the library and Chestnut Street. Other options include the *Townsmen* and *Eagle Tribune* newspapers. In addition, all candidates have been invited to post statements on the LWV's Web site: www.lwv-andovers.org.

Please schedule time to vote on Tuesday, March 28. Voting indicates to our town officials that the public is paying attention; it is our role in contributing to a healthy democracy.

Peggy Kruse
145 Argilla Road
President
LWV Andover/N. Andover

Grams for AHA

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I have come to know both the professional and civic sides of Dan Grams after more than 20 years. His extensive work with Andover youth, including my three sons, is unparalleled. Grams freely gives of his time so that young men and women can grow straight and tall. Professionally, his business ventures include local property management and maintenance. This experience provides him with a unique perspective on the housing industry in general and the requirements of Andover in particular. Grams' tireless work ethic and experience will certainly provide dividends to the town of Andover and the Housing Authority. He has my vote for a position on the Andover Housing Authority in the upcoming elections.

Jim Bedford
10 Stevens Circle

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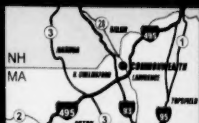
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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR



A concert of Celtic celebration: Cherish the Ladies, at the Rogers Center for the Arts tonight at 7:30.

Thursday, March 16

Concert, an evening with Cherish the Ladies, an Irish-American group performing Celtic music, 7:30 p.m., tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door; Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover; 978-837-5355 or www.merrimack.edu, www.cherishtheladies.com.

Author event, David Rivard, poetry editor of the *Harvard Review* and



David Rivard

teacher at Tufts University, will be reading from *Sugartown*, his new book of poetry, 7 p.m., free, Andover Bookstore, 89R Main St., Karen Harris 978-475-0143, www.andoverbookstore.com.

Program, "Developing Theme Gardens," presented by Betsy Williams of Andover, sponsored by the Spade and Trowel Garden Club and the Village Garden Club of Andover; free program, public is welcome, refreshments served at 7 p.m., program begins at 7:30 p.m.; at Memorial Hall Library, Elm Square; Nan James 978-475-2895, or Peg Behling 978-475-8839.

Live music with Billy Glynn, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Powow River Grille, 33 Main St., Amesbury; 978-388-2300.

ADHD discussion group, Peter Williams, PhD, a licensed psychologist, facilitates a monthly support group for ADHD adults and for parents of ADHD children on the third Thursday of each month, focus is the in-depth discussion of the challenges individuals experience in dealing with his or her own or family member's ADHD; the group also offers a forum for discussion on the assessment and medication management of ADHD, 7 p.m., 90 minutes, no charge; Higgins Conference Room (first floor), Anna Jacques Hospital, Highland Avenue, Newburyport; Peter Williams 978-465-3366.

37th Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon, sponsored by Division 8 AOH, music by the Silver Spears Irish Show Band; info and reservations 603-898-7766.

Friday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day

20th annual Irish Revue show, featuring the best in traditional Irish music song and conversation, hosted by Thomas J. Garvey of Andover, presented by WCCM-AM/1490, 2-6 p.m. (live on the Internet at www.1490wccm.com); 978-470-1658.

Performance, a musical version of *Charlotte's Web*, based on the children's literary classic by E. B. White, performed by the South Cooperative Theater, made up of

more than 50 South Elementary School students in grades 3-5, 7 p.m., tickets are \$8 and may be purchased in advance at Learning Express, 32 Park St., or Andover Snules, 63 Park St., or at the door; at West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawsheen Road; 978-623-8833.

Live music with Memorial Drive, 8 p.m., Powow River Grille, 33 Main St., Amesbury; 978-388-2300.

Irish Film Festival, sponsored by Division 8 AOH, beginning at 11 a.m., Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence; 978-794-1655.

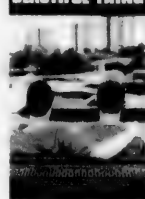
Saturday, March 18

Concert, Mark Erelli, nationally-known folk-rock-country singer, performs, with singer Meg Rayne and pianist Curtis Haynes, both country-blues music veterans from Newburyport, opening, 8 p.m.; doors open at 7:30, tickets \$15, coffee and dessert refreshments on sale, wheelchair accessible; New Moon Coffeehouse, Haverhill Universalist Unitarian Church, 16 Ashland St., (junction of Routes 125 and 110), Haverhill; 978-373-9259 or www.newmooncoffeehouse.org.

Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, all home-cooked, sponsored by West Parish Church, 5-7 p.m., adults \$10, children (12 and under) \$5 (drinks and dessert included); West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road (corner of Route 133 and Reservation Road); Mauri Johnson 978-475-3528.

Film showing, the Welcoming Film

BEAUTIFUL THING



Series presents *Beautiful Thing*, described as "the heart-warming story of two young men coming to grips with their sexuality and the effect it has on the people in their lives," sponsored by PFLAG and the Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover; Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St.; Rev. Ralph Galen 978-475-4454.

Irish Film Festival, see Friday, March 17 entry.

Performance, a musical version of *Charlotte's Web*, 7 p.m., see Friday, March 17 entry.

Sunday, March 19

Lecture, "Black Portraiture: Between Invisibility and Stereotype," presented by Nell Irvin Painter, author of the new book *Creating Black Americans: African American History and Its Meanings, 1619 to the Present* and professor of American History, emerita, Princeton University; pro-

Continued on page 12



Around the table, from left, Justin Colombo, Ned Berger, Becky Christoforo, Samantha Rance and Nancy McNamee rehearse the birthday scene of *The Dining Room*, a play written by A.R. Gurney. The Andover High actors each play six characters during different eras at the same table.

Feasting on the competition

Andover High Drama Guild hosts Drama Festival this Saturday

By Brian Davidson

JUST WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE ANDOVER High School has been knocked out of every state competition this winter, the AHS Drama Guild comes up huge.

The group of 20 students — six actors and 14 technical hands — has advanced to the semi-finals of the annual Massachusetts High School Drama Festival for the first time since 2000.

They will compete against seven schools on Saturday, at Andover High's Collins Center for the Arts, for a chance to advance to the final pool of 15 schools.

"It's fun for us to invite everyone to our house, put on some great plays, and just have a good time," said sixth-year drama director Susan Choquette.

The production they have been performing, *The Dining Room*, is a play written by A.R. Gurney that takes the audience through a progression of scenes, each set in a different time period of 20th Century America, but in the same elegant dining room.

"A lot of his plays are about the upper-middle class WASP group, and this play is certainly no exception," said Choquette. "It's paying homage to this lost room that so many people don't even use anymore."

The cast consists of Justin Colombo, Ned Berger, Mike McNamara, Becky Christoforo, Samantha Rance and Nancy McNamee.

Each student plays six different roles throughout the production, which is held to a strict 40-minute time limit by the three judges. Before and after the play, the 14-student technical team, responsible for designing and building both the set and the lighting, has five minutes to assemble or disassemble the set and then clear the stage.

"We've been rehearsing almost every day since the (March 4) preliminaries," Choquette said at rehearsal on Monday, gripping a stop watch.

Andover's drama guild finished in the top three out of eight schools at the preliminary round, securing a spot in Saturday's semi-finals. Another top three finish will land them in the finals on the last weekend of March, at John Hancock Hall in Boston.

From there, two winners will be chosen to perform in the New England Drama festival, which is a showcase, not a competition, for the top high school drama guilds in New England.

The last time Andover High School won the festival, it wasn't even called Andover High School. Its predecessor, Pynchard High School, took the title in 1950 with its rendition of *The Courtship of Marie Jenyns*, a play written by Gwen Pharis Ringwood.

Andover stopped participating in the drama festival for a number of years, according to Choquette, finally reentering in 2000, the last year they advanced to the semi-finals.

How does Choquette like their chances at this year's semis?

"You never know," she said. "Art is so subjective. Our kids worked really hard, but

the competition is really stiff. It's really anybody's game on Saturday. That's the fun of it. The only thing you can do is put your best foot forward and present your vision of the play."

However Choquette said the festival is not so much about competing as it is about enjoying the opportunity to perform with other drama groups.

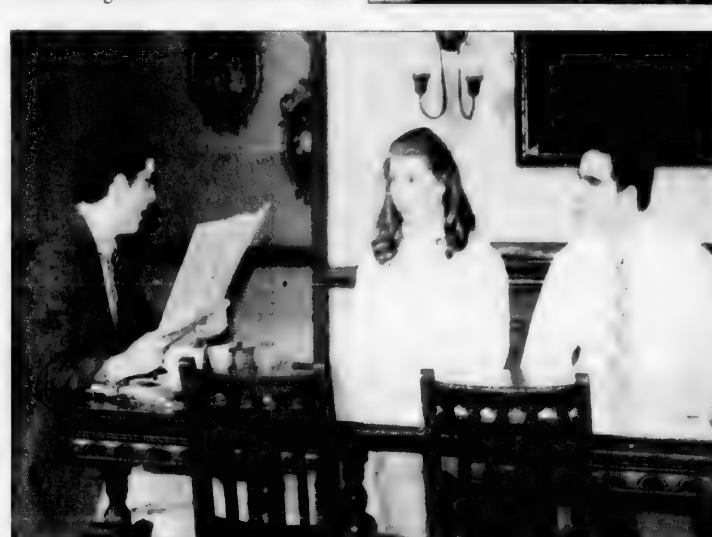
"It's more about the festival experience," she said. "Kids from seven or eight schools get to meet each other and form relationships. Some of them stay friends forever."

The festival will begin at 9 a.m. with performances running until 4:30 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for the entire day, with reentry permitted.

Andover High's Drama Guild will perform *The Dining Room* at 11 a.m.

The Collins Center is the auditorium for Andover High School on Shawsheen Road.



Six Andover High students each play six different roles in *The Dining Room*.

Top photo: Nancy McNamee types at the dining room table.

Middle photo: From left are Ned Berger, Nancy McNamee and Justin Colombo during rehearsal of Andover's entry in the Massachusetts High School Drama Festival.

Bottom photo: Nancy McNamee (left) and Samantha Rance share a few thoughts.

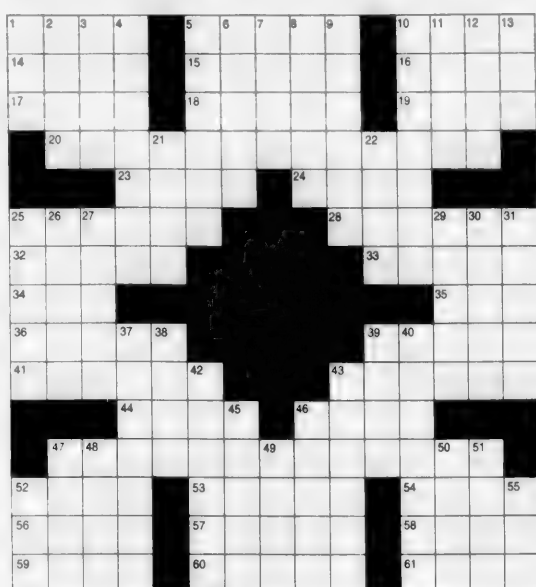


Merrimack Junior Theatre will present the musical *Oliver!* at Memorial Auditorium on Bartlet Street next weekend. From left are Scott Dzialo, Eli Grober, Michael MacKay (in front), and Brian Mason. Tickets are \$8. (Calendar listing, page 13.)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. US Marine
5. Vote
10. Perform music
14. Match
15. Coniferous tree
16. Travel on a conveyance
17. ____ nauts, sailed with Jason
18. Dutch city
19. Divination
20. Preserve your job (3 words)
23. Minerals
24. Fashion magazine
25. Type of management
28. Come out
32. Swiftless
33. Embellish
34. Potato state (abbr.)
35. Sports implement
36. Civil Rights group
39. Kitchen appliance
41. Light purple
43. Framing base
44. An individual unit
46. ____ Ladd, actor
47. Notre Dame team
52. Sign element
53. Fruit of the oak tree
54. Adhesive substance
56. Lowest female singing voice
57. Holds liquids for the table
58. Poet Victor



59. Scale drawing of a structure
60. Sweet nickname
61. 13-19

CLUES DOWN

1. Certified public accountant
2. Paddles
3. Latvian capital
4. Academic administrator
5. Repeat sounds
6. Tilts
7. Border
8. ____ and effect
9. Increase threefold
10. Continue
11. Stretched car
12. Arabian Gulf
13. Hankering
21. Lake ____, one of the Great
22. ____ mater, one's school
25. Fabric used for uniforms
26. Transmitting locator
27. Sir ____ Newton
29. Automaton
30. Cemetery plot
31. Gain admission
37. Hair bun
38. Plant stem core tissue
39. Glider ascent
40. This evening
42. Disconnect
43. Hard and brittle
45. On a small scale
46. Concede
47. Tripped and ____
48. 9th Greek letter
49. Content word
50. Large amount of lumber
51. Enormous
52. Short sleep
55. Two or more eras

EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 16 - MARCH 26
Continued from page 11

gram related to current exhibition, *Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the 19th Century*, a traveling show featuring more than 100 images made of (and by) African Americans in various media; 2 p.m., free admission, open to the public, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, corner of Route 28 and Chapel Avenue; 978-749-4015, www.addisongallery.org.

Performance, actress/magician Debbie O'Carroll will present "Shorten the Road: Tales of Ireland," sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library, featuring enchanting tales with traditional Irish stage magic, dance, theatre and lots of audience participation, program is appropriate for children ages 4-10 and their families, 2 p.m., free, Memorial Hall Library, Elm Square; 978-623-8401 Ext. 39.

Concert, featuring Terri and George Kelley of Cross Street, with the Andover Senior Center's Sunrise Singers and friends, performing "Songs From Ireland" for voice, piano, and keyboard, including a sing-along, sponsored by the Irish Foundation, 2 p.m., free admission, at the Lawrence Public Library, Lawrence; George or Terri Kelley 978-683-8222.

Sunday brunch, live music with Danny Harrington, noon-3:30

p.m., Powow River Grille, 33 Main Street, Amesbury; 978-388-2300.

Live music, the Barbara and Al Boudreau Quartet, featuring Jeff Galindo on the trombone, and regulars Mark Carlsen on bass, Jack Senier on piano, Al Boudreau on drums and Barbara Boudreau doing vocals, 5-8 p.m., \$5 cover charge, Stripers Grille, 175 Bridge Road, Salisbury; 978-499-0400 or pschafer@stripersgrille.com.

Performance, a musical version of Charlotte's Web, 1 p.m., see Friday, March 17 entry.

Monday, March 20

Irish Story Telling, 11 a.m., South Lawrence Branch Library, 135 Parker St., Lawrence; 978-794-1655.

Tuesday, March 21

No events listed.

Wednesday, March 22

Lecture, "Food Allergies and Life-Threatening Allergic Reactions: What You Need to Know," speaker is allergist Michael Young, MD, author of *The Peanut Allergy Answer Book*, sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Asthma and the Allergy Educational Support Group, 7 p.m., free and open to the public; at Atkinson Elementary School, 111 Phillips Brooks Road, North Andover; 1-877-227-8462.

Crafts class, monthly Time Travelers after-school program sponsored by the Andover Historical Society features Betsy Wish teaching about collage, for children who are budding artists, love dabbling in paint, paste, and cloth, and are between the ages of 8 and 12; classes limited to 15, pre-registration is required (call ahead), fee is \$14 for members and \$18 for non-members, which includes all materials and snacks; Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St.; Juliet Moford 978-475-2236.

Thursday, March 23

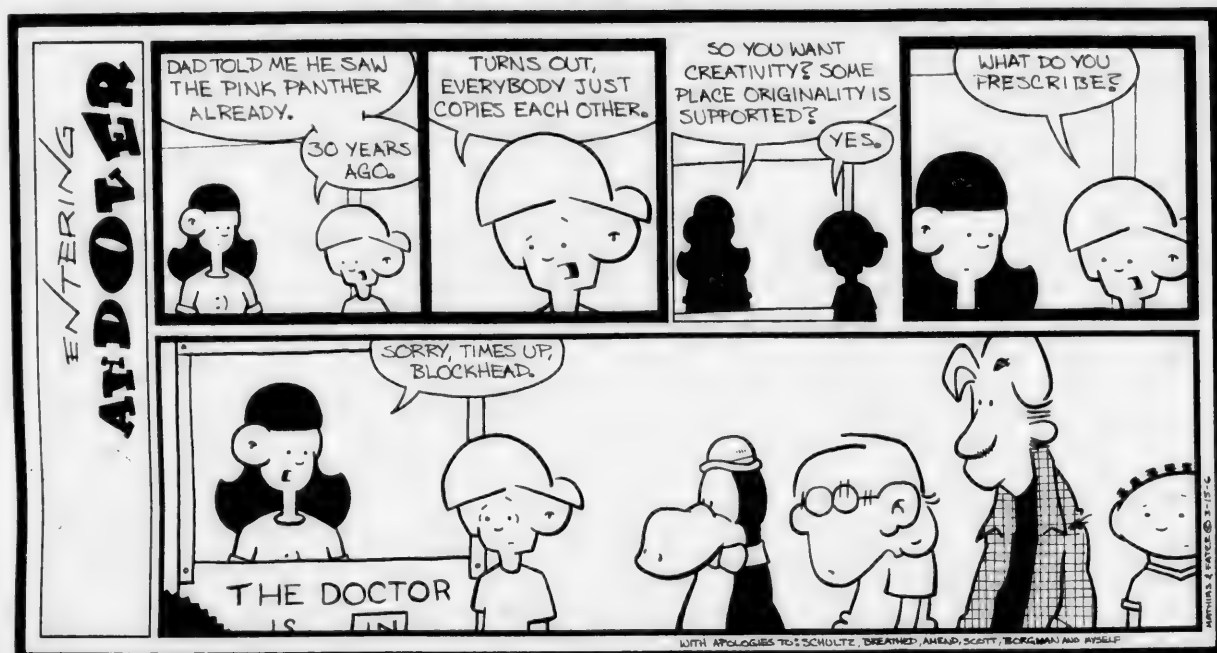
Program, Ghost Tales Told at Life Long Learning, Teddi DiCanio of Marblehead will present "Ghost Stories for Adults," 2 p.m., open to the public, admission \$1; Room 103A, Technology Center, Haverhill campus, Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill; Charlene Boucher 978-556-3825 or cboucher@nec.mass.edu.

Reception and reading, special evening of celebration of *The Powow River Anthology* National Launch, the 24 Powow River Poets include Deborah Warren and Lois Frankenberger of Andover; *The Powow River Anthology* now available for \$14.95 online at ocean-

Continued on page 13

ENTERING ANDOVER

By Neil Fater and Don Mathias



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EVENTS CALENDAR

■ MARCH 16 - MARCH 26

Continued from page 12

publishing.com. Internet retailers, and at local bookstores; 7-9 p.m., free and open to the public; Newburyport Art Association, 65 Water St. (wheelchair accessible). Newburyport; 978-465-8769.



The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, 1919.

Benefit film showing, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, directed in 1919 by Robert Wiene and thought of as the first modern horror film, with original live soundtrack by guitarist/singer/writer Zac Galen newly returned from Berlin; proceeds benefit the John Lively Foundation which awards scholarships in Lively's memory including those to high school students to attend Berklee School of Music's summer program, 7 p.m., free-will donations welcomed, refreshments

available; Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St.; Rev. Ralph Galen 978-475-4454.

Author event. Andrew Brown will read from his new biography *J.D. Bernal: The Sage of Science*.

Bernal's accomplishments reportedly range from laying the foundation of molecular biology to helping the allies plan the Normandy landings; 7 p.m., free, Andover Bookstore, 89R Main St., Karen Harris 978-475-0143, www.andoverbookstore.com.



Andrew Brown

Friday, March 24

London Philharmonic Orchestra trip, performance at Symphony Hall in Boston at 8 p.m., \$70 includes transportation from the senior center and first balcony center seats, advance tickets only, Andover Senior Center; Pat Becker 978-623-8321.

Performance, the musical *Oliver!*, sponsored by the Merrimack Junior

Theatre, directed by Josie Walker and choreographed by Josie Walker and Amy Wilkins-Blanchette, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$8, available at KaBloom, the Department of Community Services, members of the cast, and at the door; Memorial Auditorium at Doherty Middle School, Bartlet Street; Anne Sullivan 978-686-5499.

Author event, Arlene Alda will be reading from her latest creation, the *Book of ZZZ's*, at the morning story time for young children, hosted by Susan Lenoe, storyteller; 10 a.m., free, Andover Bookstore, 89R Main St., Karen Harris 978-475-0143, www.andoverbookstore.com.



Arlene Alda

Saturday, March 25

Grand opening celebration. Robin's Yoga & Healing Center LLC, bring friends and family to enjoy free yoga classes, massage, talks, raffles and sales, 10 a.m.-5

p.m., free, 885 Main St., Suite 1A, Tewksbury; 978-851-9911, www.yogawithrobin.com.

Auditions. North Shore Music Theatre seeking local equity and non-equity actors for various speaking and non-speaking roles, for *Singin' in the Rain*, those interested in auditioning should call or e-mail for an appointment at 978-232-7248 or jlarock@nsmt.org.

Third Annual Wine Tasting and Art Show, sponsored by North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist Church, art exhibits from members of the Andovers Artists Guild and guests will be on display and available for purchase, wines will be supplied by Shaw-sheen Village Liquors, which will donate a percentage of all wine sale profits to the North Parish Church Building Fund; 4-6:30 p.m., hors d'oeuvres and live music are also included in the ticket price of \$15, tickets are available at Shaw-sheen Village Liquors, 2-4 Poor St. and at North Parish Church (in advance or at the door); at the North Parish Church, Parish Hall, 190 Academy Road, North Andover; Lianne Cristaldi 978-689-9549.

Performance, the musical *Oliver!*, see Friday, March 24 entry.



South Cooperative Theater, with more than 50 South Elementary School students in grades 3, 4 and 5, will present a musical version of *Charlotte's Web* based on the children's literary classic by E. B. White. There are three performances, **Friday, March 17 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 18 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, March 19 at 1 p.m.** at West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawsheen Road. Tickets are \$8 and may be purchased in advance at Learning Express, 32 Park St., or Andover Smiles, 63 Park St., or at the door. At rehearsal are, from left, Alyssa Otolo, Andrew Schwartz, Carter Letsky and Steven Moreland. Call 978-623-8833 for more information.

Sunday, March 26

Live music, the Barbara and Al Boudreau Quartet, featuring Mike Tucker on sax, and regulars Mark Carlson on bass, Jack Senior on piano, Al Boudreau on drums and

Barbara Boudreau doing vocals, 5-8 p.m., \$5 cover charge, Stripers Grille, 175 Bridge Road, Salisbury; 978-499-0400 or pschafer@stripersgrille.com

Continued on page 14

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 16 - MARCH 26
Continued from page 13

Performance, the musical Oliver!, 2 p.m., see Friday, March 24 entr.

ONGOING**Art Exhibitions**

Addison Gallery of American Art, a new show on exhibit through March 26. *Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the 19th Century*, a traveling show featuring more than 100 images made of (and by) African-Americans in media ranging from paintings, photographs and silhouette profiles to book frontispieces and popular prints that will travel in the spring to the Delaware Art Museum and later to the Long Beach Museum of

Art; also showing through April 9. *Young America: The Daguerreotypes of Southworth & Hawes*, the only New England showing of this major touring exhibition, which features the largest and most comprehensive exhibit of the work of two of the finest practitioners of the art of fine art portraiture using daguerreotype photography over the period of their 20-year partnership, regular gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m., free admission, Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, corner of Route 28 and Chapel Avenue; 978-749-4015, www.addisongallery.org.

Alpers Fine Art of Andover, gallery hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2 Main St.;

978-470-0013 or
www.alpersfineart.com.

Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, Objects and their Meanings: Historical Highlights of the Peabody, displays ethnographic objects from museum's collections of North and South America and a series of photographs that illustrate the activities of the museum's key people during the last century;

Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m., by appointment only, free admission, Phillips Academy campus, 175 Main St.; 978-749-4490.

Arthur Griffin Museum of Photography, two new shows through March 19: *The Body Familiar: Current Perspectives of the Nude*, images of the human form by 9 contemporary artists who are creating works that offer new perspectives on an age-old subject; A

Dream Half Remembered, black and white images by Ken Rosenthal with a mystical quality; Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., \$5 admission, seniors, members and children under 12 free, Thursday admission is free all day, 67 Shore Road, Winchester; 781-729-1158, www.griffinmuseum.org.

Brush Art Gallery, regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Brush Art Gallery and Studio, 256 Market St., Lowell; 978-459-7819 or www.thebrush.org.

COOL Gallery, exhibit hours Tuesday and Thursday, 1-5 p.m., COOL Gallery, 338 Market St., Lowell; Cultural Organization of Lowell 978-446-7162.

University Gallery at UMass Lowell, featuring the works of Andover-based painter and sculptor Doug Bell through Feb. 24; regular hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays by prior arrangement, University Gallery, First Floor, McGauvran Student Union, 71 Wilder St., UMass South, Lowell; 978-934-3491.

Gallery 181, "Journeying into Mind and Matter," a group exhibition featuring the revealing works of David Bookbinder, Mary Lee, Allison Maroun, Diane Maroun, Alya Romeos, and Tova Speter. Exhibition through March 30; artists' reception Thursday, March 9 from 5:30-8 p.m., all are welcome; Regular hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; Gallery 181, Cotton Weaving House, 181 Canal St., Lawrence; Marjorie 978-741-7979.

Robert Lehman Art Center at Brooks School, gallery hours Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, 2:30-5 p.m., 1160 Great Pond Road, North Andover; 978-725-6232.

Whistler House Museum of Art, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., \$4; 243 Worthen St., Lowell; 978-452-7641.

Memorial Hall Library, Artist of the Month is Nancy Carroll: Portraits in Wood; Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Norma Gammon 978-623-8401, Ext. 49, www.mhl.org.

Essex Art Center, featuring in the Main Gallery, "Being (Fe) male," an exhibition of work by Georgia Renfro (Andover), Sally Russell (Groton) and Thea Shapiro

Continued on page 15



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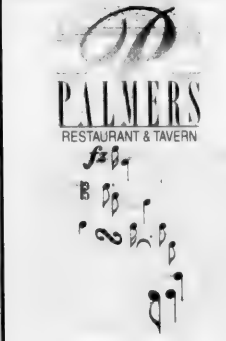
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Sports

AHS ROUNDUP

Another girls hockey heartbreaker

History repeats itself as Lady Warriors bow out in semifinals, melting winter campaign

By Rick Harrison

What are the odds?
For the third straight year, the Andover High girls varsity ice hockey team lost in the Division 2 State Tournament semifinals.

And, for the third consecutive year, the score was 4-3.

AHS was also a semifinalist in the tourney the past two seasons, dropping a pair of 4-3 decisions to Wellesley in 2004 and St. Mary's High of Lynn last winter.

The St. Mary's game was decided in regulation and the Wellesley game took one overtime.

The latest heartbreaker went to two overtimes before then-undefeated top seed Reading prevailed at the Chelmsford Forum in Billerica after *Townsmen* presstime last week.

Reading, which finished 18-1-3 overall, subsequently lost to unbeaten No. 2 seed Wellesley (19-0-3) by a 2-1 score in the state final.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

After falling behind 1-0 less than one minute into the game against Reading, the Lady Warriors took a 3-2 lead into the third period.

But the locals were unable to put the Rockets away despite carrying play for much of the third session and the game.

Reading tied it midway through the period and finally netted the game-winning goal one minute into the second sudden-death overtime.

Andover senior sniper Maria Nasta, who will graduate this spring as the

school's all-time hockey leader (girl or boy) in goals, assists and total points, fittingly closed out her high school career by figuring in all the scoring with two goals and one assist.

Becky Cairns contributed a goal, Liz Roda passed out two assists while Alison Burns and Heather Paonessa added one each.

Goaltender Christina Cahill made 22 saves as AHS outshot the Middlesex League champs, 31-26.

Earlier in the tournament, with her eighth hat trick of the season in a 6-0 first round win over Westford Academy, AHS multi-time All-Scholastic Nasta became one of a handful of Massachusetts high school girls hockey players to score a remarkable 200 career points.

In the earlier rounds Metro North champion Andover posted convincing back-to-back shutout wins over Westford Academy and Falmouth (9-0).

No. 5 seed AHS finished 16-5-2 overall.

The Lady Warriors outscored the opposition by a wide 97-32 margin in 23 games, recording eight shutouts (Waltham twice, Algonquin Regional, Everett, Marblehead, Masconomet Regional, Westford Academy, Falmouth) and holding eight other teams to one goal each.

Six seniors

Andover will graduate some top-notch talent in seniors Maria Nasta, Liz Roda, Ally Brown, Kristen Costagliola, Amy Marlow and Sam Weinberg.

Among those eligible to return next season are Becky Cairns, Alison Burns, Becky Johnson, Tricia Martin, Heather and Danielle Paonessa, Samantha Monson, Katie Shields, Jeanette Doucette, Sarah Ostrofsky and goaltenders Christina Cahill, Rachel Bergan and Megan Pettoruto.

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

The name of Andover High boys varsity ice hockey player Joe Benedix was inadvertently omitted from the list of seniors printed in the AHS ROUNDUP section of last week's *Townsmen*.

Benedix, an integral part of the Golden Warriors' success this winter, finished as the fifth highest scorer on the team with four goals and 13 assists for 17 points.

[Final scoring, tourney photos below.]

BASKETBALL

Five Andover High girls basketball players and three boys have been selected to participate in the annual Merrimack Valley Conference All-Star Games scheduled this Sunday (March 19) at Haverhill High.

Girls tapped to play are junior guard Maggie Cosgrove, sophomore guard Meghan Thomann, sophomore forward Lauren Hughes, senior forward Kelly O'Dea and sophomore guard Laura Renfro.

AHS boys are senior guard Greg Vetrano, senior guard Casey Cosgrove

and senior forward Bobby Hughes.

Several of the same players are expected to represent Andover in the girls versus boys three-point shooting contest.

Conference Coaches of the Year Jim Tildsley and Dave Fazio of AHS will head up one of the girls and boys teams respectively.

The schedule calls for the Girls All-Star Game to kick things off at 12:30 p.m. The Three-Point Contest goes at 1:40, a Slam Dunk Contest at 2 p.m. and the Boys All-Star Game at 2:30 p.m.

The Lowell High team that ousted the AHS girls from the Division 1 North Tournament in overtime went on to beat Somerville, 48-21, in the North final before losing to South champ Braintree, 54-46 in overtime, in the state semifinals Monday night at TD Banknorth Garden in Boston.

The Charlestown team that eliminated the Golden Warrior boys reached the North final before bowing to Central Catholic, 76-69, at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

Central then lost to Newton North 82-70 in the state semifinals — the same North team that edged Andover, 60-59, in the championship game of the Comcast Tournament at BC High.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Andover High girls gymnasts selected as 2006 Merrimack Valley Conference All-Stars are senior Katie Infantine, freshman Kristen Coney,

junior Becky Robichaud, senior Sarah Coney and junior Carly Verrette.

The Lady Warriors recently completed their season with an overall 9-2 dual-meet record, including 5-2 in the MVC, and a 7th-place finish in a field of 10 qualifiers at the North Sectional Championship Meet.

BOYS SWIM & DIVE

Andover High freshman standout Nick D'Innocenzo, who went undefeated in all individual head-to-head races this winter, has been voted the 2006 Merrimack Valley Conference Swimmer of the Year.

D'Innocenzo capped his first varsity season at AHS by winning two events at the MVC Championship Meet, the North Sectional Meet and the All-State Division 1 Championships.

Joining D'Innocenzo on the All-Conference Team, comprised of 16 swimmers, are Andover High sophomores Christian Bishop and Peter Saunders, junior Dave Espindle and senior Rob Medaglio.

Golden Warrior All-Stars are freshman Mike Bakies, sophomores Zach Hamer, Peter Li, Tim Russell and senior one-meter diver Joe Savoca.

Mark Taffe was named the MVC Coach of the Year.

In one of its best seasons ever, the AHS swimmers and divers went undefeated at 9-0-1 overall, including 3-0-1 as MVC co-champ, and then finished 7th at the North Sectionals and 6th at the State Division 1 Championship Meet.

TOURNAMENT TIME



ICE-9... AHS varsity hockey 2006 seniors include (front row): Phil Kim, Matt Colby, Joe Benedix and Mike Lamagna. Back row: Mike Ahern, Austin Gilbert, A.J. Drivas, Greg Carroll and Andrew Gatti.



AHS hockey player Joe Benedix battles a Gloucester opponent in a second period face-off in game 2 of the Division 2 North Tournament. The Fishermen nipped Andover, 3-1, to oust the locals from the tourney, ending their successful season.

ANDOVER SCORING

BOYS HOCKEY
(22 games)
FINAL SCORING

	G	A	Pts
Matt Colby	18	21	39
A.J. Drivas	12	19	31
Tucker Mullin	11	16	27
John Hyslip	11	11	22
Joe Benedix	4	13	17
Austin Gilbert	8	8	16
Mike Lamagna	8	5	13
Phil Kim	5	5	10
Dan Godefroi	1	7	8
Colin Brennan	1	6	7
P.J. Paonessa	3	3	6
Riki Retelle	1	5	6
Greg Carroll	2	3	5
Andrew Gatti	2	2	4
Jeff Martin	0	1	1

Hat Tricks: Matt Colby 2, A.J. Drivas 1.
Shutouts: Dan Abreu 4; John Booth & Abreu 1.

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TOURNAMENT SCORES

BOYS HOCKEY

GLOUCESTER 3, ANDOVER 1 Division 2 North Tournament Quarterfinal Game at Salem State College				
Andover	1	0	0	1
Gloucester	0	1	2	3
FIRST PERIOD: 1. A. John Hyslop 11 (unassisted), 14:01.				
SECOND PERIOD: 2. G. Andrew Fulford (Derek Secoste), 14:25 (pp).				
THIRD PERIOD: 3. G. Tom Salah (unassisted), 13:55; 4. G. Salah (unassisted), 14:56 (en).				
Shots on goal: Andover 22, Gloucester 31. Goalies: S. Dan Abreu (31 shots, 28 saves), G. Eric Schlichte (22 shots, 21 saves). Records: Andover 14-6-2 (final), Gloucester 19-3.				

GIRLS HOCKEY

ANDOVER 6, WESTFORD 0 State Division 2 Tournament First Round at Harrison Rink, Phillips Academy				
Westford	0	0	0	0
Andover	0	1	3	2
FIRST PERIOD: 1. A. Maria Nasta (Becky Cairns, Trish Martin), 12:20.				
SECOND PERIOD: 2. A. Nasta (Danielle Paonessa), 10:06; 3. A. Cairns (Alicia Burns, Nasta), 11:00 (pp); 4. A. Heather Paonessa (Samantha Munson), 13:15.				
THIRD PERIOD: 5. A. Munson (Martin, HPaonessa), 1:17; 6. A. Nasta (DPaonessa), 12:59.				
Shots on goal: Andover 41, Westford Academy 15. Goalies: A. Christina Cahill (15 shots, 15 saves), 7th shutout. WA, Elisa Laroche (41 shots, 35 saves).				
Penalties: Andover 6, Westford Academy 5. Records: Andover 15-4-2, Westford 11-7-3. Note: The last AHS goal was Maria Nasta's 200th career point at AHS.				

INDOOR TRACK

MVC CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at Collins Field House, Andover GIRLS DIVISION Team Scores	
1. ANDOVER 74.5; 2. Central Catholic 73; 3. Haverhill 54; 4. Tewksbury 35; 5. Billerica 30; 6. Chelmsford 29; 7. Methuen 17; 8. Lowell 14; 9. Dracut 7.5; 10. NDA-Tyngsboro 6; 11. Lawrence 1.	
Individual Events Andover Placers (Top 6 Score)	
50 HURDLES: 1. Brittany Pierce 7.54; 13. Caroline Hodge 8.70.	
50 DASH: 4. Bizzzy DiToro 6.75; 5. Chrissy Peracchi 6.77.	
300: 2. Melissa Knapp 40.12; 11. Jenn Johnson 42.04; 12. Sara York 42.27; 14. Kayley Pettoruto 42.46.	
600: 1. Rachel Fox 1:29.49; 3. Colleen Shannon 1:33.40; 10. Val Peacock 1:38.30; 14. Amy Boxell 1:39.71.	
1000: 10. Christina Conley 3:02.91; 11. Cat Gross 3:06.05.	
MILE: 4. Casey Harrison 5:25.81; 18. Christy Nigh 6:20.79.	
2-MILE: 5. Mary Burke 12:43.85; 12. Vanessa DiPasquale 13:19.52.	
HIGH JUMP: 3. Jess Forster 5'0"; 5. (tie) Kerry Hill 4'8".	
SHOT PUT: 2. Sarah Thompson 34'5"; 19. Lauren Martin 24'6 1/2".	
4x400 RELAY: 1. Andover (Melissa Knapp, Jenn Johnson, Colleen Shannon & Rachel Fox), 4:15.16.	
4x800 RELAY: 4. Andover, 10:33.96.	
BOYS DIVISION Team Scores	
1. Methuen 68.5; 2. ANDOVER 64; 3. Haverhill 56; 4. Central Catholic 39; 5. Lowell 35; 6. Chelmsford 28; 7. Lawrence 18; 8. Billerica 17; 9. Tewksbury 13.5; 10. Dracut 2.	
Individual Events Andover Placers (Top 6 Score)	
50 HURDLES: 1. Adam Cuomo 6.86; 13. Tom Jackson 7.70.	

50 DASH: 2. Jason Sheldon 5.90; 7. (tie) Jeff Belardo 6.08.	
300: 1. Pierre Hage 34.71; 2. Nate Baker 34.99.	
600: 4. Ben Osoff 1:20.13; 10. Mike Baldwin 1:24.07.	
1000: 12. Peter Roman 2:38.38.	
MILE: 15. Frank Perrone 4:54.77.	
2-MILE: 8. Peter Shaw 10:29.01; 13. Peter Brown 10:45.68.	
HIGH JUMP: 2. Nate Baker 5'11"; 3. Andrew Wheelwright 5'11".	
SHOT PUT: 10. John Kim 42'0"; 11. Dave York 41'9".	
4x400 RELAY: 1. Andover (Jason Sheldon, Ben Osoff, Nate Baker & Pierre Hage), 3:39.85.	
4x800 RELAY: 7. Andover, 9:03.41.	

MVC BOYS SWIM & DIVE

CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at White Natatorium, Haverhill Team Scores	
1. Chelmsford 484 pts; 2. ANDOVER 395; 3. Haverhill 268; 4. Central Catholic 157; 5. Lowell 66.	
Individual Events Andover Placers (Top 12 Score)	
200 MEDLEY RELAY: 1. Dave Espindle, Tim Russell, Peter Saunders & Rob Medaglio, 1:48.03; 6. Kevin O'Donnell, Zach Hamer, Yubo Liu & Pat Delacoste, 1:53.65.	
200 FREE: 2. Christian Bishop 1:54.59; 3. Rob Medaglio 1:55.33; 12. Mike Bakies 2:05.00.	
200 IM: 1. Nick D'Innocenzo 2:05.25; 4. Dave Espindle 2:14.40 (state cut); 6. Zach Hamer 2:19.87; 12. Andrew Janetti 2:37.40.	
500 FREE: 3. Peter Saunders 23.89; 7. Yubo Liu 24.96; 8. Kevin O'Donnell 25.08; 10. Pat Delacoste 25.39.	
1-METER DIVING: 4. Joe Savoca 218.60 pts; 7. Peter Waking 176.65 pts; 10. Steve Moore 159.75 pts.	
100 BUTTERFLY: 2. Peter Saunders 56.46; 3. Rob Medaglio 1:00.15; 10. Andrew Janetti 1:13.81.	
100 FREE: 5. Peter Li 53.33; 8. Yubo Liu 55.57; 13. Steve Moore.	
500 FREE: 1. Christian Bishop 5:07.58; 8. Mike Bakies 5:39.82; 10. Tom Demers 6:13.18; 11. Justin Ferguson 6:30.82.	
200 FREE RELAY: 2. Yubo Liu, Peter Li, Rob Medaglio & Nick D'Innocenzo, 1:35.27; 3. Steve Moore, Pat Delacoste, Kevin O'Donnell & Christian Bishop, 1:39.48.	
100 BACKSTROKE: 2. Dave Espindle 58.46; 3. Peter Li 1:01.87; 7. Kevin O'Donnell 1:04.55.	
100 BREASTSTROKE: 1. Nick D'Innocenzo 1:04.85; 3. Zach Hamer 1:08.63; 6. Tim Russell 1:10.17.	
400 FREE RELAY: 2. Christian Bishop, Peter Li, Peter Saunders & Nick D'Innocenzo 3:27.31; 5. Dave Espindle, Devon Mullen, Steve Moore & Mike Stewart, 3:48.59.	

ALL-STATE DIVISION 1 BOYS SWIM & DIVE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at Zeigler Sports Center, MIT TOP 10 TEAMS	
1. St. John's Prep 229 pts; 2. B.C. High 179; 3. Acton-Borboro 96; 4. Lexington 87.5; 5. Xaverian Brothers 86; 6. ANDOVER 84; 7. Westfield 75; 8. Lincoln-Sudbury 69; 9. Minnechaug Regional 62; 10. Newton South 61.	
Individual Events Andover Placers (Top 12 Score)	
200 MEDLEY RELAY: 5. Dave Espindle, Nick D'Innocenzo, Peter Saunders & Rob Medaglio, 1:44.00.	
200 FREE: 15. Rob Medaglio 1:51.69; 16. Christian Bishop 1:52.01.	
200 IM: 1. Nick D'Innocenzo 1:56.64 (school record); 25. Dave Espindle 2:15.72.	
500 FREE: 21. Peter Saunders 23.44.	
1-METER DIVING: 12. Joe Savoca 299.20 pts.	
100 BUTTERFLY: 7. Peter Saunders 55.40.	
100 FREE: 36. Peter Li 53.91.	
500 FREE: 11. Rob Medaglio 5:00.18; 19. Christian Bishop 5:07.07.	
200 FREE RELAY: 18. Yubo Liu, Pat Delacoste, Christian Bishop & Peter Li, 1:37.09.	
100 BACKSTROKE: 15. Dave Espindle 58.77.	
100 BREASTSTROKE: 1. Nick D'Innocenzo 1:00.89 (school record); 22. Zach Hamer 1:07.51.	
400 FREE RELAY: 4. Christian Bishop, Rob Medaglio, Peter Saunders & Nick D'Innocenzo, 3:21.37.	

ALPINE SKI

INTERSCOLASTIC RACE at Bradford Hill GIRLS DIVISION Team Scores	
1. ANDOVER 594 pts; 2. North Andover 447; 3. Haverhill 360; 4. Masconomet Regional 338; 5. Bashop Fenwick 303; 6. Austin Prep 279.	
Andover Placers (Slalom & Giant Slalom Runs)	
1. Michelle Guy 45.75; 8. Cayley Christopher 49.05; 9. Carly Holstein 49.23; 11. Jackie Guy 49.81; 12. Cara Suglia 50.25; 13. Dani Liffman 50.36; 15. Kayla Fosse 50.86; 16. Colleen Heath 57.24.	
BOYS DIVISION Team Scores	
1. St. John's Prep 660 pts; 2. North Andover 542; 3. ANDOVER 441; 4. Masconomet Regional 410; 5. Haverhill 206; 6. Bishop Fenwick 76.	
Andover Placers (Slalom & Giant Slalom Runs)	
12. Eric Heath 45.16; 13. Jason Dashtpeyma 45.47; 14. Gavin Lynch 45.95; 19. Peter Webster 46.73; 23. Wil Suglia 47.75; 29. John Suglia 48.89; 31. Matt Anderson 49.59.	

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

MVC CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at Lakeview Junior High, Dracut Team Scores	
1. Chelmsford 147.625; 2. Dracut 146.680; 3. Methuen 139.00; 4. ANDOVER 138.80; 5. Central Catholic 135.125; 6. Billerica 132.00; 7. Tewksbury 123.50; 8. Lowell 122.45.	
Individual Events Andover Placers (Top 4 each team score)	
UNEVEN BARS: Katie Infantine 9.05; Sarah Coneeny 8.9; Christina Muccio 8.875; Leah Psinos 8.75; Carly Verrette 8.2; Kristen Coneeny 7.7.	
BALANCE BEAM: Becky Robichaud 8.45; Lauren Colby 8.3; Christina Muccio 8.1; Donna Lamontagne 7.9; Renee Corio 7.7; Leah Psinos 7.45.	
VAULT: Kristen Coneeny 9.05; Carly Verrette 8.8; Sarah Coneeny 8.6; Steph Theroux 8.4; Kelly Sullivan 8.3; Kathryn Sullivan 8.2.	
FLOOR EXERCISE: Carly Verrette 9.05; Becky Robichaud 8.95; Kristen Coneeny 8.925; Sarah Coneeny 8.7; Leah Psinos 8.425; Renee Corio 8.1.	

STATE COACHES INVITATIONAL at Lakeview Junior High, Dracut (No Team Scores) Andover Scorers	
UNEVEN BARS: 3. Alyssa Geary 7.5; 6. Marilyn Fontaine 7.1.	
BALANCE BEAM: 6. Casey Jaroch 7.3; Alyssa Geary 7.1; Caroline Biles 7.0; Devin Geary 5.6.	
VAULT: 3. Emily Benham 8.0.	
FLOOR EXERCISE: Devin Geary 7.7; Stephanie Shin 7.4; Kelly Sullivan 7.35; Emily Benham 7.25; Brittany Hockman 6.65.	

NORTH SECTIONAL GIRLS TEAM GYMNASTICS MEET at Beverly High Team Scores	
1. Masconomet Regional 145.450; 2. Chelmsford 144.700; 3. North Andover 140.800; 4. Dracut 140.750; 5. Reading 139.950; 6. Westford Academy 137.875; 7. ANDOVER 135.150; 8. Algonquin Regional 134.750; 9. Danvers 133.925; 10. Hamilton-Wenham 133.325.	
Andover Scorers (Top 4 Count)	
VAULT: Kristen Coneeny 8.9; Carly Verrette 8.5; Kathryn Sullivan 8.15; Kelly Sullivan 7.9; Sarah Coneeny 7.85; Steph Theroux 7.55. Team Score: 33.450.	
UNEVEN BARS: Katie Infantine 8.6; Kristen Coneeny 8.35; Carly Verrette 8.15; Alyssa Geary 7.85; Christina Muccio 8.0; Sarah Coneeny 7.85. Team Score: 33.200.	
BALANCE BEAM: Becky Robichaud 8.9; 2. Lauren Colby 8.6; Leah Psinos 8.15; Alyssa Geary 7.85; Casey Jaroch 7.75; Donna Lamontagne 7.65. Team Score: 33.500.	
FLOOR EXERCISE: Kristen Coneeny 8.975; Becky Robichaud 8.750; Carly Verrette 8.675; Leah Psinos 8.6; Renee Corio 8.475; Sarah Coneeny 8.15. Team Score: 35.000.	

BOYS GYMNASTICS

STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP MEET at Attleboro High Team Scores	
1. Braintree 183.00 pts; 7. ANDOVER 117.70.	
Individual Events (Top Andover Scores)	
FLOOR EXERCISE: John Chang 7.0; Seth Putnam 6.8.	
HIGH BAR: Seth Putnam 4.4.	
Pommel Horse: Seth Putnam 4.75.	
PARALLEL BARS: Seth Putnam 4.6.	
VAULT: Rob Tomatore 8.15; Billy Mara 8.0; Aaron Davidovits 8.0.	
RINGS: Rob Tomatore 4.4.	
All-Around: 1. Dave Ellis (Braintree) 55.10; 10. Seth Putnam 31.95.	

GIRLS BASKETBALL

LOWELL 44, ANDOVER 42 (OT) Division 1 North Tournament Semifinal Round Game at Kilmas Field House, Methuen	
Lowell - Christine McCall 3-0-6, Meaghan Cavanaugh 4-2-10, Ashley Rivera 2-3-7, Kelly Rogers 1-0-2, Courtney Schermerhorn 7-3-17, Kara Rogers 0-2-2. Totals: 17-10-44.	
Andover - Maggie Cosgrove 4-2-10, Meghan Thomann 3-2-10, Jen Meninder 1-2-4, Laura Renfro 4-0-10, Lauren Hughes 2-4-8. Totals: 14-10-42.	
Halftime: Andover, 21-12. 3-pointers: A. Thomann 2, Renfro 2. Records: Andover 21-1, Lowell 19-4.	
ANDOVER 69, CAMBRIDGE R&L 46 Division 1 North Tournament Quarterfinal Round Game at Dunn Gym, Andover	
Dummeran 2-4-8, Chase 1-1-3, Mayhelo 2-0-4, Julie 1-0-2, Sturges 0-4-4, Weeks 5-6-16. Totals: 13-20-46.	
Andover - Sarah LoMedico 0-0-0, Maggie Cosgrove 4-2-11, Meghan Thomann 5-0-13, Kasey O'Dea 0-0-0, Jen Meninder 0-2-2, Sara Kelleher 1-0-2, Amanda Fantini 0-0-0, Kelly O'Dea 0-1-1, Emily Pallotta 1-2-4, Laura Renfro 8-0-22, Lauren Hughes 4-0-8, Camille Fantini 2-0-4, Ilana Cohen 1-0-2. Totals: 26-6-69.	
Halftime: Andover, 47-18. 3-pointers: A. Renfro 6, Thomann 3, Cosgrove 2. Rebounds: A. Thomann 11, Hughes 10, Kelly O'Dea 9, Renfro 5, CFantini 5. Assists: A. Cosgrove 9, Renfro 5, Thomann 4. Steals: A. Cosgrove 4, Thomann 2. Records: Andover 21-0, Cambridge R&L 15-7.	

ANDOVER 54, GLOUCESTER 47 St. Mary's Spartan Classic at Lynn Championship Game	
Gloucester - Lukeford 4-2-10, Rogers 1-1-3, Amero 1-0-2, Cahill 5-3-13, Davis 4-11-19, Prince 0-0-0. Totals: 15-17-47.	
Andover - Maggie Cosgrove 8-8-16, Amanda Fantini 1-0-2, Meghan Thomann 5-0-13, Jen Meninder 0-0-0, Kelly O'Dea 1-6-8, Laura Renfro 1-2-5, Lauren Hughes 5-0-10, Emily Pallotta 0-0-0, Camille Fantini 0-0-0. Totals: 16-16-54.	
Halftime: Gloucester, 24-23. 3-pointers: A. Thomann 3, Cosgrove 2, Renfro 1. Records: Andover 20-0, Gloucester 15-5.	

ANDOVER 66, NEEDHAM 54 St. Mary's Spartan Classic at Lynn Semifinal Game	
Needham - James 3-2-8, Nowell 2-0-5, Bailey 2-1-6, Jurgens 2-3-7, Presskreischer 3-0-6, Mosgrove 5-2-20, Ganser 1-0-2. Totals: 18-15-54.	
Andover - Maggie Cosgrove 4-2-12, Meghan Thomann 8-0-22, Emily Pallotta 0-0-0, Jen Meninder 1-0-2, Kelly O'Dea 0-0-0, Laura Renfro 9-3-26, Camille Fantini 0-0-0, Lauren Hughes 1-2-4, Amanda Fantini 0-0-0. Totals: 23-7-66.	
Halftime: Needham, 34-30. 3-pointers: A. Thomann 6, Renfro 5, Cosgrove 2, N. Nowell 1, Bailey 1, Mosgrove 1. Rebounds: A. Thomann 8, CFantini 3. Assists: A. Cosgrove 6, Thomann 5, Renfro 4. Steals: A. Cosgrove 4, Thomann 3. Record: Andover, 19-0.	

BOYS BASKETBALL

CHARLESTOWN 86, ANDOVER 62 Division 1 North Tournament Quarterfinal Game at Madison Park High	
Andover - Greg Vetranio 4-7-17, Hutchins 1-0-2, Max Ball 0-2-2, Casey Cosgrove 3-5-11, Tyler Carroll 1-0-2, Ian Dempsey 4-1-10, Tristan Shannon 3-2-8, Greg Cook 0-0-0, Peter White 0-2-2, Derek Beasley 0-0-0, Bobby Hughes 2-2-6, Sam Ball 0-0-0, Gordon DuBois 1-0-2, Chns Abreu 0-0-0. Totals: 19-21-62.	
Charlestown - Becklens 8-12-30, Dunbar 3-2-9, Marshall 4-2-12, Coleman 1-5-7, Hayman 0-0-0, Bowman 1-0-2, Skeens 2-7-11, Turner 0-0-0, Greene 6-1-13, Riley 0-1-1, Weathers 0-1-1. Totals: 25-31-86.	
Halftime: Charlestown, 41-27. 3-pointers: A. Vetranio 2, Dempsey 1, C. Becklens 2, Marshall 2, Dunbar 1. Rebounds: A. Hughes 8, Assists: A. Hughes 3, Cosgrove 2, Vetranio 2, Skeens 2, Marshall 2, Dunbar 2, Vetranio 1. Records: Andover 17-6 (final), Charlestown 18-4.	
ANDOVER 77, ST. JOHN'S PREP 71 (ot) Division 1 North Tournament First Round Game at Dunn Gym, Andover	
St. John's Prep - Nick Zolotas 7-0-20, Stephan Bilharz 0-0-0, Enc Pasinos 2-3-7, Ryan O'Connell 3-2-10, Chuck O'Neill 0-0-0, Mike Howlett 11-8-30, Sean O'Hara 1-0-3, Zach Gustafson 0-1-1. Totals: 24-14-71.	
Andover - Greg Vetranio 8-8-28, Casey Cosgrove 4-3-13, Peter White 0-0-0, Ian Dempsey 4-0-10, Tristan Shannon 1-0-2, Gordon DuBois 0-0-0, Bobby Hughes 8-1-18, Chns Abreu 3-0-6. Totals: 28-12-77.	
Halftime: St. John's Prep, 38-33. 3-pointers: A. Vetranio 4, Cosgrove 2, Dempsey 2, Hughes 1, SJP, Zolotas 6, O'Connell 2, O'Hara 1. Rebounds: A. Hughes 10, Vetranio 9, Dempsey 5. Assists: A. Vetranio 9, Cosgrove 7, Dempsey 4, Hughes 2. Steals: A. Cosgrove 3. Records: Andover 17-5, St. John's Prep 13-8.	

NEWTON NORTH 60, ANDOVER 59 Comcast Tournament Championship Game at B.C. High, Dorchester	
Andover - Greg Vetranio 6-21-27, Casey Cosgrove 6-2-18, Ian Dempsey 2-0-6, Peter White 2-0-4, Bobby Hughes 3-3-10, Gordon DuBois 2-0-4. Totals: 21-7-59.	
Newton North - Jason Riffe 3-0-8, Alexis Mongeau 2-0-6, Corey Lowe 1-2-5, Darius Abramson 6-3-15, Jason Lawson 1-0-2, Brandon Stevens 3-2-9, Anthony Gurley 6-3-15. Totals: 22-10-60.	
Halftime: Andover, 33-28. 3-pointers: A. Cosgrove 4, Vetranio 3, Dempsey 2, Hughes 1, NN, Riffe 2, Mongeau 2, Lowe 1, Stevens 1. Records: Andover 15-5, Newton North 21-0. Tournament MVP: Casey Cosgrove.	
ANDOVER 88, CHARLESTOWN 76 Comcast Tournament Semifinal Game at B.C. High, Dorchester	
Charlestown - Hall 2-0-5, Becklens 10-2-27, Dunbar 4-4-13, Marshall 5-0-11, Coleman 2-0-5, Skeens 2-4-8, Green 2-0-4, Hayman 1-1-3. Totals: 28-11-76.	
Andover - Greg Vetranio 7-7-25, Casey Cosgrove 7-11-29, Ian Dempsey 0-1-1, Derek Beasley 6-1-1, Tristan Shannon 0-0-0, Peter White 3-3-9, Max Ball 0-0-0, Bobby Hughes 7-1-17, Gordon DuBois 0-1-1, Sam Ball 0-0-0, Chns Abreu 2-1-5, Greg Cook 0-0-0, Tyler Carroll 0-0-0. Totals: 26-26-88.	
Halftime: Andover, 40-36. 3-pointers: A. Vetranio 4, Cosgrove 4, Hughes 2, C. Becklens 5, Hall 1, Dunbar 1, Marshall 1, Coleman 1. Records: Andover 15-4, Charlestown 13-6.	

Andover High 2006 spring sports teams will be out in force next Monday, March 20, for the start of tryouts and practices.

AHS will again field varsity teams in baseball, softball, girls track, boys track, girls tennis, boys tennis, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse and boys volleyball.

Most teams will begin regular season play either the first or second week of April.

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SPORTS TALK

Andover High School senior **Emily Pallotta** has signed an NCAA Letter of Intent to accept a full athletic scholarship to play soccer at Boston University.

Pallotta, a four-year starter for the AHS soccer team, tallied 39 goals and 57 assists during her career as a center-midfielder.

Among her list of accomplishments and awards, Pallotta was Andover's first NSCAA (National Soccer Coaches Association of America) Scholastic All-

American.

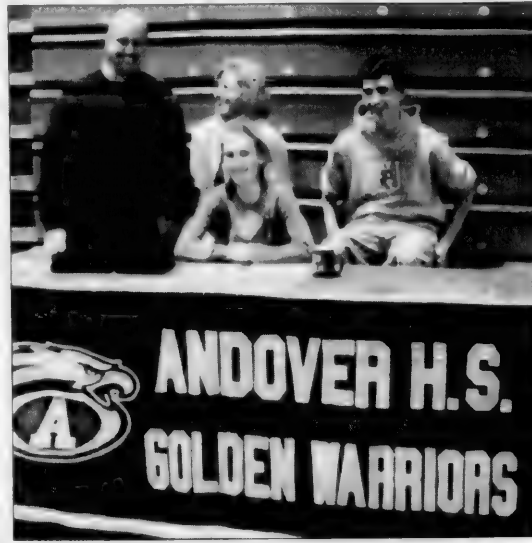
She was also selected an NSCAA All-Region All-Scholastic, was a two-time *Eagle-Tribune* Player of the Year, and a *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* All-Scholastic.

Pallotta was twice selected to the Eastern Massachusetts All-State teams and was also chosen as a member of the All-New England Select Team her senior year.

The 2005 AHS captain was a four-time Merrimack Valley Conference All-Star and was the Player of the Year as a senior.

Longtime AHS head girls varsity soccer coach Dick Loschi said: "Of all the very good players I have been privileged to coach, Emily has been the consummate player for her entire high school career. She brought such a devotion for the game, knowledge and desire to the performance of the team which led to much of our success. Emily's individual growth and improvement came with tireless work year-round, but her unselfish support - encouragement and tutelage of her teammates, on and off the field - were beyond her playing years."

"Leadership is a good word to describe Emily's total performance and contribution to Andover High School."



Andover High School senior Emily Pallotta has signed an NCAA Letter of Intent to accept a full athletic scholarship to play soccer at Boston University. She is the daughter of Andy and Kathy Pallotta. She has an older sister, Liz (not in photo), a student at the University of Indiana, and a younger brother, Andrew, an eighth-grade student at Doherty Middle School.

ANDOVER SCORING

BOYS BASKETBALL
(23 games)
FINAL SCORING

	FG	FT	Pts.
Greg Vetrano	129	92	411
Casey Cosgrove	129	78	393
Bobby Hughes	110	28	252
Ian Dempsey	52	25	149
Tristan Shannon	46	24	116
Chris Abreu	32	16	80
Peter White	31	18	80
Tyler Carroll	7	7	21
Gordon Dubois	5	6	16
Sam Ball	3	4	12
Max Ball	3	3	11
Derek Beasley	0	1	1

3-pointers: Greg Vetrano 61, Casey Cosgrove 58, Ian Dempsey 20, Bobby Hughes 4, Max Ball 2, Sam Ball 2.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
(22 games)
FINAL SCORING

	FG	FT	Pts.
Meghan Thomann	108	21	308
Maggie Cosgrove	100	49	276
Laura Renfro	66	15	186
Lauren Hughes	60	22	142
Jen Merinder	29	19	77
Amanda Fantini	25	14	64
Camille Fantini	24	3	58
Kelly O'Dea	19	18	57
Emily Pallotta	19	14	55
Kasey O'Dea	12	0	29
Sara Kelleher	10	1	21
Ilana Cohen	7	0	17
Sarah LoMedico	4	0	8
Jordy Shoemaker	4	0	8
Kelly Driscoll	3	1	7

3-pointers: Meghan Thomann 71, Laura Renfro 39, Maggie Cosgrove 27, Camille Fantini 7, Kasey O'Dea 5, Ilana Cohen 3, Emily Pallotta 3, Kelly O'Dea 1.

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Journalists sponsor "Sunshine Week" to throw some light on government. Reporters can't report if officials work secretly.

However, openness is not just for reporters. Ordinary people also need information from the government sometimes.

In many other countries, people do not know what their government does. In the United States, laws establish open government.

The federal Freedom of Information Act is 40 years old. The act requires federal officials to let citizens see government records.

The act allows officials to keep some secrets. In the past few years, officials have blocked more requests for information. That trend to secrecy has journalists worried.

State open meeting and records laws set rules for state and local governments.

Officials must tell people when and where a meeting will be held. They must list the business to be considered at that meeting. That way, citizens can attend meetings. People can tell elected officials how they feel about is-



THE LONGER SOME THINGS ARE KEPT, THE MORE THEY STINK

Cartoon by Randy Bish, *Tribune-Review* in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Members of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists have created a series of cartoons about Sunshine Week. See the cartoons at www.sunshineweek.org.

sues. People know what is going on.

Officials must keep records of what happens at meetings. People can see meeting minutes and records of how tax dollars are spent. The records must be available during regular business hours.

Sunshine Week is not about journalists working on a story. It's not about one political party or the other.

Sunshine Week is about protecting and encouraging open government. It is about the right of every citizen to know what our government is doing and why.

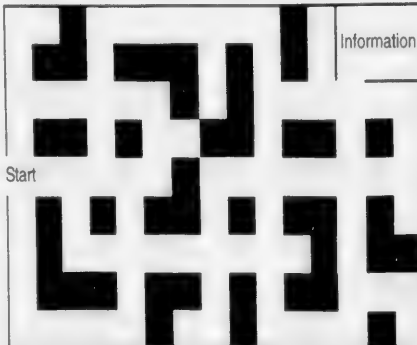
"We, the People" can make better decisions when we have all the facts.



Classroom activity

Search your newspaper for a story about a public meeting. Read the story with your class. Discuss what type of business took place at the meeting. Discuss why it is important for citizens to know what is going on with the government.

Follow the rules in the Open Records Maze



You must follow certain rules in this maze. You cannot turn left. You can only go straight or turn right. Find your way to the information you need.



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Townspeople

ON THE SCENE

March madness hits the runway

Andona hosts its annual fashion show

O PRAH's favorite jeans made the show. Native Sun on Essex Street carries them.

So did the style of jeans worn by actress Teri Hatcher on an episode of *Desperate Housewives*. Jeans Addiction on Chestnut Street stocks those.



ON THE SCENE

Judy Wakefield

At least jeans made a mark at the Andona Society's annual benefit fashion show. The show is held every March and Andover women come out in droves to get a sneak peek at spring fashions.

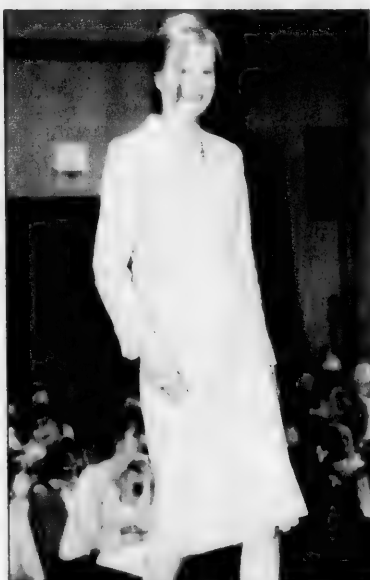
The show was held Sunday, March 12 at the Wyndham Hotel in West Andover.

Organizers said 210 women attended along with a few husbands who manned the digital cameras while their wives hit the runway. The women modeled clothes from seven local stores that cater to female customers. Kids also hit the runway when clothes from Gap Kids were featured.

Denise Bordanoro, Andona Society president, noted that show-watchers just have to go downtown if they see something they like.

"This is always well-attended," added Jackie Branscombe, who co-chaired the event with Kelly Dougherty. "We picked

Continued on page 20



Joyce Huizing



Stacey Gillis



Jodi MacDonald



Bettina Indaco



Lisa McDonald in a French-laced loungewear ensemble.

Behind the seams

It might have been a fashion show, but the event kicked off like a business meeting as President Denise Bordanoro shared information about Andona's donations with the crowd.

A portion of each \$45 fashion show ticket helps pay for numerous youth programs in town. Recent donations include:

- ▶ \$50,000 to the proposed new youth center
- ▶ \$13,000 for summer camp scholarships
- ▶ \$2,000 scholarships to five college-bound high school seniors
- ▶ \$1,275 to Memorial Hall Library
- ▶ \$1,000 to the annual Senior Safari event at Andover High
- ▶ \$1,000 to the after-school clubs account at Andover High
- ▶ \$1,000 to the Andover Historical Society's program for third-graders



Kara Sewall has just written *Beatrix Potter Collectibles: The Peter Rabbit Story Characters*, a book and price guide of Potter collectibles. She co-authored the book with Debby DuBay, owner of Limoges Antique Shop on Post Office Avenue.

BELOW: Some wood carvings, boxed in a glass cabinet, depict a scene from a Beatrix Potter book.

INSET: Sewall enjoys the world inhabited by animals with human characteristics.



The Other Potter

Kara Sewall dwells within a world of Beatrix Potter collectibles

By Greta Cuyler

Entering Kara Sewall's little gray "mouse house" in Andover is like walking into another world.

Everywhere you look there is Beatrix Potter memorabilia, from books to figurines, from stained glass scene depictions to hand-stitched Peter Rabbit dolls.

Potter, the English author and illustrator of numerous children's books, comes alive in this house. And so do the characters of her books, from the naughty Peter Rabbit who stole carrots from Mr. McGregor's garden to the sweet hedgehog, Mrs. Tiggy-winkle and Benjamin Bunny. It is clear that the English writer has a fan in Andover.

Sewall has just written *Beatrix Potter Collectibles: The Peter Rabbit Story Characters*, a book and price guide of Potter collectibles. She co-authored the book with Debby DuBay, owner of Limoges Antique Shop on Post Office Avenue.

Sewall was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1981 and has been in a wheelchair since 1985. Together, she and her husband John have embraced Potter's world as their own.

"I don't have time to be lonely," she says. "It's a very lovely world."

Like Potter, Sewall has a gift of bringing animals to life with human characteristics.

Inside, Sewall rescues and domesticates feral cats. Outside, she has befriended the many animals who live in her yard. Chuck the woodchuck is partial to the apples Sewall feeds him. Chipmunks, too many to name, knock on her door when they want acorns and peanuts. And the red squirrels who shimmy up and down the trees in her back yard, look to Sewall for their daily feeding of peanuts. Last summer, the Sewalls' grill was temporarily out of commission when a mouse decided to have its babies there.

Sewall has been a member of the worldwide Beatrix Potter Society in London since 1982. She founded the Beatrix Potter Potterygram quarterly newsletter in 1987. The newsletter had a circulation of 120 serious collectors around the world until

Sewall retired the publication in 2003 due to the lack of US licensing for Potter productions. She writes articles about Potter collectibles in the quarterly Beatrix Potter Society newsletter.

She knows collectors around the world, in six different time zones. She calls them her "Potter Pals."

Sewall never read Potter books as a child. But she always had an affinity for animals like little mice and guinea pigs. In 1973, she was introduced to Potter's work when her husband John bought her a copy of "The Tale of Two Bad Mice."

It was the beginning of Sewall's love affair with all things Beatrix Potter. To call Sewall obsessed may be somewhat of an understatement. The first floor of her house is filled with at least 1,000 pieces of Potter memorabilia. One room contains no less than 169 Potter music boxes, plus a Peter Rabbit bird-bath, a painstakingly handmade Mr. McGregor's garden, tree ornaments, books, figurines, globes, bells and handmade boxes.

Every Christmas morning since 1990, as Sewall sits in front of the fireplace, John brings her a new wood carving depicting a scene from a Potter book.

One year, he gave her a custom-made Peter Rabbit weathervane.

During the warmer months, Sewall spends most of her time outside, enjoying her "magic garden." Here there is no cellphone, no radio; just the chipmunks, the woodchuck and the red squirrels — and all things Potter. There are topiaries of Peter Rabbit and Tom Cat, along with John Sewall's wooden creations of Mr. McGregor's scarecrow, Mr. McGregor's wheelbarrow and Peter Rabbit going under the gate at the "Mouse House."

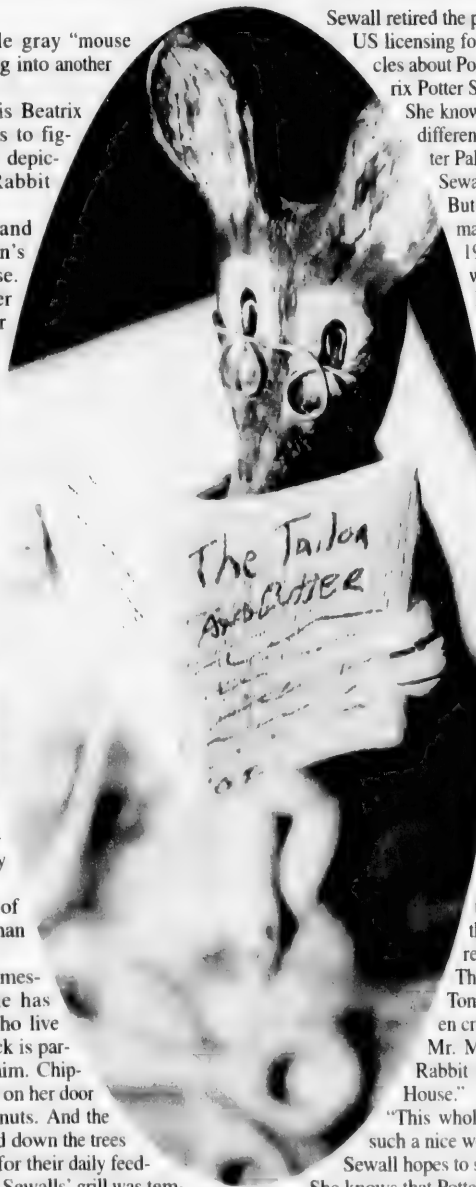
"This whole thing is magic," says Sewall. "It's such a nice world, it's just joy."

Sewall hopes to someday donate her Potter collection.

She knows that Potter's books and illustrations are not part of many children's upbringing these days. But she remains hopeful for a Potter comeback in future generations.

"(Potter) will never go away," she says.

▶ *Beatrix Potter Collectibles: The Peter Rabbit Story Characters* is available at www.amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble bookstores.



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FOR SENIORS

By Pat Becker
Andover Senior Center

Here are some of the activities coming up at the Andover Senior Center. Call the senior center at 978-623-8321 for further information about any classes, programs or services.

Winter Reminder: Residents in doubt about possible weather-related cancellations, can call the information line for a recorded message about the day's events at 978-623-8377. For all other questions, call the main number at 978-623-8321.

Exercise Classes: The spring semester of exercise classes gets underway this week and runs through the end of May. Spaces are still available in most classes, so be sure to stop in and register or give us call for further information.

Movie Matinee: Join us Monday, March 27 at 1 p.m. when we will show the recent release, *Cinderella Man*, starring Renee Zellweger and Russell Crowe. Reservations are not necessary and all are welcome.

Massage Therapy: A licensed massage therapist is on-site at the center Monday mornings by appointment, offering seated, upper-body massages. Cost is just \$12 for a 20-minute appointment. Call the center if you would like to try out this great stress reliever.

Fix-It Shop: The fix-it volunteers will be back at the center again Monday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. They will be happy to take a look at any small item or appliance in need of repair. Your cost is \$2 plus any necessary parts.

Book Club: Our afternoon book club will meet again on

Thursday, March 23 at 1 p.m. *The Thorn Birds* by Colleen McCullough will be the topic of discussion. Copies of the book are available at the center for check-out. Newcomers are welcome in this group at any time.

London Philharmonic Orchestra: Celebrated for its versatility, artistic excellence, and thrilling performances, the London Philharmonic, under the direction of principal conductor Kurt Masur, has earned its place among the world's most respected orchestras. We'll attend this performance at Symphony Hall in Boston on Saturday evening, March 24 at 8. The cost (\$70) includes transportation from the center and first balcony center seats.

Tips For the Late Blooming Handywoman: Back by popular demand, this four-session class will get underway on Tuesday, March 21 at 2 p.m. Under the direction of Marion Wohlhieter, you'll learn a few simple rules with a few simple tools, enabling you to make those minor repairs by yourself, saving money in the process. Spaces are limited and pre-registration is necessary.

Pain Management Class: Ten weeks beginning Tuesday, April 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Based on techniques developed by the Mind/Body Institute and the Arnold Pain Center at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, this program incorporates both traditional and complementary methods aimed at decreasing pain and improving function. Cost is \$40, and pre-registration is necessary.

Tax Appointments: AARP tax preparers are currently avail-

able at the center on Thursday and Friday mornings by appointment. This is a free service for seniors of moderate income. For further information on income guidelines, appropriate information to bring, or to schedule an appointment, call the senior center at 978-623-8321.

UMass Lowell Health Series: UMass Lowell will offer an alternative health series at the center on Thursdays, March 23 and 30 at 2 p.m. Topics will be "Nutritional Interventions and Healthy Aging" and "Alternatives to Medicine for Cancer Prevention and Treatment." Cost is \$3 per lecture and pre-registration would be appreciated.

Preventing Diabetes: The rate of diabetes has been dramatically increasing in the United States leading to serious health complications. This PowerPoint presentation and lecture on Monday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m. will focus on ways that diabetes can be prevented by being aware of risk factors, warning signs, and protective measures. This is a free program, but pre-registration is necessary.

Creative Cooking/Lunch Group: Have the fun of going out to eat right at the senior center by watching Ed Alessi's cooking demo and having lunch together. The class will be held on Thursday, March 30 at 11:15 a.m. March menu will be veal in a tomato caper sauce, Italian salad, breadsticks and dessert.

"Shifting Gears" Safe Driving Program: The Registry of Motor Vehicles will present "Shifting Gears," a free hour-long program designed to educate and encourage elder drivers to continue being responsible and safe. The program will be held at the center on Friday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by calling the center.

Peabody Essex Museum Trip Thursday, April 27 - "Painting Summer In New England": This exhibition features more than 100 paintings by 70 major artists. Lent primarily by museums across the US, including the Metropolitan Museum of American Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Whitney Museum of American Art, provides the opportunity to explore the remarkable artistic richness that New England has inspired. Cost is \$28, which includes museum admission, guided tour of the exhibit and bus transportation from the center.

Continued on page 21

ON THE SCENE

■ ANDONA FASHION SHOW

Continued from page 19

a tropical theme because we wanted something light and fun... Everyone wants to get ready for spring and summer even though this winter wasn't so bad."

Greeters placed colorful pastel leis around the necks of guests, and the hit drink of the day at the cash bar was definitely the mango runner, made with rum. Lunch included a tropical fruit salad, Jamaican jerk chicken, and Caribbean rice with coconut milk and black beans.

Guests wandered around the silent auction table and bought raffle tickets for prizes that included a diamond necklace from Nazarian's and two tickets to next year's Andona Ball complete with a limo ride, a tuxedo rental from Kaps and a ladies manicure. Then, the show began.

This spring and summer are all about flip-flops, capris and embellished jeans as those styles dominated the runway. The color combination of black and white seems to never go out of style as model and longtime Andona Society member MaryBeth Finn modeled several clothes combinations with this color pattern. The scene wasn't all casual and comfy as model and member Joyce Huizing did a great job modeling spring suits, including one in chartreuse.

Perhaps Andona's best known model, Bettina Indaco (a former professional model) is used to changing quickly. She modeled a myriad of items including embellished jeans, a tank top and a cool straw cowboy hat - a South Beach style, for sure.

Best Dressed, CoCo Collection, dresscode, Irresistibles and Night & Day also participated in the show.

"It's always great to be here and I'm so glad they asked me," said Merit Whirly, owner of Night & Day, who chose a French-laced loungewear ensemble for model and former Andona president Lisa McDonald.

"This audience - they're our best customers."

Holding & folding

Townpeople are welcome to attend a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament at Indian Ridge Country Club on Friday, March 31 beginning at 6 p.m. There is a \$150 donation to play for the evening, with \$10,000 in prize payouts. Proceeds benefit West Elementary School. Registration forms and information are online at www.westelpt.com.

INTERIOR DESIGN SOLUTIONS

by Sue Adams
Allied Member ASID

TEETERING ON THE BRINK

As you arrange displays on mantels or shelves, think of them in terms of a seesaw. When setting out to achieve a proper balance, start by assigning a visual "weight" to each object in relation to the objects that surround it. For instance, a small, dark piece may actually appear to be visually heavier than a larger, light-colored piece because of its ability to draw attention to itself. With this in mind, set about arranging various objects so that their visual weights are evenly distributed across the length of a shelf or mantel. Within this context, asymmetrical balance may be used to achieve an informal feel while symmetry can be utilized to achieve a more formal look.

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HINT: Also think in terms of visual balance when hanging pieces of art on a wall.

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OBITUARIES

Donald McCandless

Was regular contributor to the Townsman

Donald Wright McCandless, 57, formerly of Andover, died Tuesday, Feb. 28, at his home in Southborough.

He lived in Andover for more than 20 years before moving to Southborough last fall.

He was born in Plainfield, N.J., and grew up in Cheshire, Conn.

He graduated from St. Albans School in Washington D.C., received a bachelor of arts degree in economics from Boston University, a bachelor of arts degree in biology from University of Massachusetts, and a master's in business administration in computer science at Boston College.

At SAP America, he was a senior technical consultant who installed operating systems at corporations throughout the world.

He worked as a computer systems analyst at Hanscom Air Base for several years.

He was a musician and a singer. At St. Albans, he sang in the Boys Choir at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. During his undergraduate years, he briefly pursued a career in opera. He sang in and directed several operas at Boston University and was a member of the choir at the Church of the Advent in Boston.

In Andover, he coached his son's and daughter's youth soccer teams.

He was a member of Christ Church, Andover, and sang in the church choir. He also enjoyed photography, writing, and published several essays about his family, politics and local matters in the *Townsman*.

In addition, he was active for

many years in the Merrimack Valley Residents for the Environment (MVRE) and was also a member of AVIS.

Members of his family include his wife of 29 years, Joanne (Messier) McCandless; son, Patrick McCandless of New York City; daughter, Elinor McCandless, of Southborough; father, Donald McCandless of Olney, Md.; his mother, Mary Jane Bryan of Sykesville, Md.; a brother, David McCandless of Nantucket; a sister, Marjory Siegelman of Germantown, Md.; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Douglass Funeral Home and Sacred Heart Church in Lexington, where the choir from the Church of the Advent sang.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Brain Tumor Research Fund, c/o Dr. Patrick Wen, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Room G430B, 44 Binney St., Boston, MA 02115.

of the Jewish Federation and Temple Emanuel of Andover.

Mr. Smith was also a member of Andover Country Club and Glen Eagle Country Club in Delray Beach.

Members of his family include his wife, Elayne (Baker) Smith; children, Jeffrey and Amy Smith, Joel and Janet Smith, and Lisa and Greg Dunne; seven grandchildren; and his mother-in-law, Gertrude Baker.

He was predeceased by his parents, Helen (Dine) and Daniel Smith, and his brother, Maxwell Smith.

Services were held at Temple Emanuel in Andover, and arrangements were by Goldman Funeral Chapel of Malden.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lawrence P. and Elayne A. Smith Mitzvah Fund, c/o Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover, 01810.

Steven J. D'Urso

AHS grad, businessman

Steven J. D'Urso, 57, of Boxford, died Wednesday, March 8, at his home.

He was born in Lawrence to Edward and Lillian (Benigno) D'Urso.

He was educated in Lawrence schools, and graduated from Andover High School and UMass Business School.

Mr. D'Urso was on the board of natural scientists in New Hampshire.

He owned and operated his company for 20 years, reconstructing wetlands and designing and repairing septic systems.

Members of his family include his mother, Lillian (Benigno) D'Urso of Lawrence; two brothers, Edward D'Urso and his wife Beatrice Slavin of Hooksett, N.H., and Thomas D'Urso and his wife Barbara Young of Vermont; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were by Cataudella Funeral Home of Methuen.

DEATHS

Grace M. Blum, 82
Christopher Crowninshield, 38
Steven J. D'Urso, 57
Frank O. Greenwood, 77
Duncan Egger Lennon, 84
Donald W. McCandless, 57
Leslie A. Morin, 45
Raymond A. Pageau, 78
Lawrence A. Smith, 72
Genevieve T. Wolslegel

DEATHS ELSEWHERE

BLUM — Grace M. Blum, 82, of Methuen, died Thursday, March 9 at the Caritas Holy Family Hospital. She worked at the Internal Revenue Service in Andover.

CROWNINSHIELD — Christopher C. Crowninshield, 38, of Methuen, died Tuesday, March 7 after a long illness. He was a 1985 graduate of the Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover.

GREENWOOD — Frank O. Greenwood, 77, of Hampstead, N.H., died Friday, March 10 at the Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, N.H. Mr. Greenwood worked as an auto mechanic and was a teacher at the Greater Lawrence Technical School in Andover for 11 years.

Lennon — Duncan Egger Lennon, 84, of Charlotte, N.C., died Wednesday, March 8, in

Charlotte. Members of his family include his son and daughter-in-law, Matt and Mary Ann Lennon, and his grandchildren, Duncan, Alex, and Molly Lennon, all of Andover.

MORIN — Leslie A. (Caruso) Morin, 45, of Methuen, died Wednesday, March 8 at the Caritas Holy Family Hospital. She worked for 15 years at the Internal Revenue Service in Andover as a computer support technician.

WOLSLEGEL — Genevieve T. Wolslegel, of New York, died Tuesday, March 14. Members of her family include her daughter and son-in-law, Ellen Zappala, general manager at the Andover Townsman, and husband Tom Zappala. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

OBITUARIES ARE SUPPLIED BY FUNERAL HOMES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Raymond A. Pageau

Retired woodworker

Raymond A. Pageau, 78, of Andover, died Tuesday, March 14 at home.

He was born in Lawrence on Aug. 26, 1927.

Mr. Pageau was a member of St. Augustine Church in Andover, the Lawrence Elks 65, and was also an active participant at the Andover Senior Center.

He was a veteran of the US Army Air Force, having served during World War II.

Mr. Pageau was a woodworker.

Members of his family include his wife, Viviane M. (Raymond) Pageau of Andover; two daughters, Nancie Pageau and her husband Nick Gibbs of Sidney, Australia and Sandra Pageau of Andover; one grandson; a sister, Claire Cormier and her husband George of South Lawrence; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass will be celebrated Saturday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Augustine Church, 43 Essex St., Andover. There are no calling hours.

Cremation will take place at Linwood Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Lawrence Lodge of Elks 65 BPOE, Scholarship Fund, 652 Andover St., Lawrence, MA 01843.

MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY NEWS

By Norma Gammon
Community service coordinator,
Memorial Hall Library

HERE ARE SOME of the activities coming up at Memorial Hall Library this month.

All cultural programs are sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library.

GENEALOGY MONTH
Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Marcia D. Melnyk
US Federal Census and City Directories: Getting the most from these sources

Learn the ins and outs of using the census records to your best advantage and how city directories can aid you in this research, as well as filling in the years between the decennial census lists. You will never look at the census in the same way again.

Genealogists and family historians have always used the United States Federal Census records to track our ancestors from 1790 through 1930. Many researchers use the records without fully understanding the information included. With any record you must know why the record was created, what data was included, and how to translate this data into other possible research sources. Research the



record before you use the record for research.

Tuesday March 28, 7 p.m.
Laura G. Prescott
The Rest of the Story: Using Manuscripts to Create a Family History

Tap into great repositories of historical treasure. Discover where to find family information in special collections archives. Learn why manuscripts and artifacts are essential to building your family's story.

Learn how to be productive in identifying appropriate collections, what to expect during a visit, and how to use the resources most effectively. Particular examples, some humorous, some disappointing, some triumphant, will be elaborated upon.

THE EAGLE AND THE SWASTIKA: A HISTORICAL TALK BY JOE PONTI
Wednesday, March 29, 7 p.m.

Joe Ponti will give a talk on the history of the US Coast Guard cutter *Eagle*, a bark-

rigged tall ship used by the Coast Guard Academy to train cadets. The *Eagle*, originally launched in 1936, began its life as the *Horst Wessel*, a Nazi training ship for the German navy. His talk will trace the history of these early years, along with personal experiences of having sailed on the *Eagle* as a cadet from 1957 to 1961.

MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.
READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN
Azar Nafisi

GREAT BOOKS

Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
THE END OF THE AFFAIR
Graham Greene

CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH CLASSES:

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CHILDREN'S ROOM PROGRAMS

Actress/magician to perform at Memorial Hall Library

Magician Debbie O'Carroll will present Shorten the Road: Tales of Ireland at Memorial Hall Library this Sunday, March 19 at 2 p.m.

O'Carroll's enchanting tales feature traditional Irish stage magic, dance, theatre and lots of audience participation. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library, for children ages 4-10 and their families.

FOR SENIORS

■ SPRING ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Continued from page 20

Art History Slide & Lecture Series: "Women Artists from the 17th through the 20th Century" will be the topic of this four-week slide and lecture series by art lecturer Gerry Weisenberg. The class will meet Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20 and May 4. Cost is \$20 for the series; pre-registration is necessary.

Beginners' Computer Class: This four-week course is for the novice who has little or no experience using the computer and wishes to learn the very basics. The class will meet on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. beginning April 4. Class size is limited and pre-registration (\$30) is necessary.

Interactive Internet: Are you ready for some "surfing"? Learn about popular Internet providers, search engines and portal navigation. We'll explore numerous sites of interest to seniors including medical, travel, government and many others. Meet on Wednesdays for four weeks, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. beginning April 5. Spaces are limited and pre-registration (\$30) is necessary.

Calligraphy: Learn how to address envelopes, invitations or special gifts using a beautiful script. The instructor will be Andover artist Carol Boileau. There is no charge for the lessons. The instructor will supply all materials needed for the class at a charge of \$10 per person. The three-session class will be held Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. beginning April 12.

Woodcarving: The spring session of woodcarving will get underway Monday, April 10. The 10-week session meets Monday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$20. Some carving experience is helpful, but instruction is available from Fred Arakelian.

Fly-Tying: This course is for anyone who wishes to learn the art of fly-tying. We'll start with the basics and progress up to the dressing of a dry fly. A class outline and explanation of cost and materials is available at the center. This five-week course will meet Tuesday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. beginning April 25. Pre-registration is necessary by April 15 so that the appropriate materials may be ordered.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Andover's American Legion Post 8 meets monthly to discuss veterans' issues and coordinate patriotic support for Andover's community activities. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Andover Senior Center. The meetings are open to Andover veterans and there is no charge.

Tomorrow, Friday, March 17, which is St. Patrick's Day, WCCM-AM/1490 will present its 20th annual Irish Revue show.

From 2 to 6 p.m., the best in traditional Irish music song and conversation will be hosted by Thomas J. Garvey of Andover.

The program will also be online at www.1490wccm.com.

Last year's show brought calls from London, Ireland, Australia and from the line of march of New York's Saint Patrick's Day parade along Fifth Avenue.

For more information, call 978-470-1658.

Temple Emanuel invites the public to attend a one-hour "Shabbat Unplugged" Service, tomorrow, Friday, March 17 beginning at 6 p.m.

Fruit and cheese will be offered prior to the service at 5:30 p.m., in the foyer outside the chapel.

Rabbi Robert Goldstein will speak. Idan Irelander, assistant music director, will lead the dynamic and inspiring music portion of the service, which will include cello, percussion, bassoon and trumpet. This service is open to the public regardless of faith or affiliation. Temple Emanuel is located at 7 Haggetts Pond Road. Call 978-470-1356.

The Spade and Trowel Garden Club and the Village Garden Club of Andover invite townspeople to attend a program, "Developing Theme Gardens," presented by Betsy Williams tonight, Thursday, March 16 at Memorial Hall Library, Elm Square.

The public is welcome at this free program, with refreshments served at 7 p.m. The program begins at 7:30.

Williams has been in the business of growing, selling, decorating and teaching about living with herbs since 1970.

Trained as a florist in Boston and England, she combines her floral skills with an extensive knowledge of history, plant lore and seasonal celebrations to create fresh and dried floral arrangements for weddings and private homes. She draws on this same knowledge in her entertaining lectures, weaving stories and legends throughout her informative talks.

Call Nan James at 978-475-2895, or Peg Behling at 978-475-8839 for more information.

This Saturday, March 18 at 7 p.m., PFLAG and the Welcoming Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover presents *Beautiful Thing*, part of the Welcoming Film Series.

Organizers describe *Beautiful Thing* as "the heartwarming story of two young men coming to grips with their sexuality and the effect it has on the people in their lives." They added, "There are many 'coming out' and gay-themed movies these days, but none is more touching."

The program takes place at 6 Locke St. For more information, call 978-475-4454.

OBITUARIES

The *Townsman* will publish obituaries of Andover residents without charge.

The paper also will publish without charge a short announcement of those people who died and did not live here, but are related to someone who lives in Andover. This listing will include the name of the deceased, where he or she lived, when he or she died, and names of relatives in Andover.

Those who wish to have a complete obituary published about a person who did not live in Andover can pay for a death notice. The cost of a death notice depends on the length of the notice.

Questions? Call Jack Grady or Neil Fater at 978-475-7000.

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Business

BRIEFS

Flynn promoted to senior VP

Teresa Flynn has been promoted to senior vice president, human resources at Lawrence Savings Bank. Flynn is responsible for the overall management of human resources, including employee relations, recruitment, compensation and benefits administration.

Flynn joined the bank as vice president, human resources in 2005. She has more than 16 years human resource, sales and management experience.

"Terri has taken hold of the Human Resource Department and charted an aggressive role in meeting the needs of both the bank and its employees. As a senior manager, her leadership will continue to ensure that human resource programs and benefits are fair and attractive," said Gerald T. Mulligan, president and CEO of Lawrence Savings Bank.

Flynn graduated with a bachelor's degree from Boston University and received her MBA from Bentley College. Flynn resides with her husband and three children in Andover. She is an active volunteer for South Elementary School and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.



Katherine Schroeder

Promotion at Jeanne D'Arc

Katherine Schroeder was promoted to vice president, mortgage processing manager of the Lowell-based Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union. Schroeder joined the Jeanne D'Arc Credit Union in 2002. She brings numerous years of experience in the mortgage and lending industry. She resides in Andover with her husband.

New Coldwell Banker agent

Former Andover resident Michael Sibulesky has joined the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Andover as a Realtor. Sibulesky will provide residential real estate services in Andover as well as the surrounding communities of North Andover, Boxford, Methuen, Haverhill and Lawrence.

"Sibulesky comes to Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage with exceptional real estate experience that will make him a valuable asset to the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage team," said Cathy McCarthy, manager of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Andover. Sibulesky had been a sales agent for the past seven years at Prudential in Andover where he consistently earned their highest awards since 1999 placing him in the top 3 to 5 percent nationally of their company, said Coldwell in a release.

Sibulesky is a former 14-year resident of Andover, and current two-year resident of North Andover. He holds degrees in civil engineering and economics and resides in North Andover with his wife, Alla, and two children, Daniel and Lena. An emigrant of Russia, he is fluent in both Russian and Romanian.

New project engineer

Wright-Pierce, a civil and environmental engineering firm headquartered in Topsham, Maine with an office in Andover, recently hired three new employees.

One of these employees, Peter J. Wilson, joined the Andover office. Wilson is project engineer in the firm's hydrogeology group and brings several years experience in work for the municipal as well as the private sectors. Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in history and a bachelor's of science degree in environmental sciences from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is a resident of Somerville.



Peter Wilson

NECC Music Department has new music coordinator

For 33 years Michael Finegold of Andover made music at Northern Essex Community College. Though he continues to teach music reading and theory as an adjunct faculty member and to direct and perform with NECC's Essex Chamber Music Players, he has passed the baton to Kenneth Langer, the new music coordinator at NECC. Along with the respected music program, Langer inherited state-of-the-art music facilities in the college's new Tech Center, located on the Haverhill campus.

A seasoned musician, conductor and teacher, Langer holds a doctorate in music theory and composition from Kent State University, a master's in music from Radford University and a bachelor's in music education from James Madison University.

FINDERS, SELLERS

Northern Essex teacher: People can make a living on eBay – but it's not easy

By Judy Wakefield

Virginia Tikelis must have felt as if she'd found a pot of gold when she learned that an old pitcher she had bought for \$5 was worth \$800.

Tikelis, a Haverhill resident, attended last week's appraisal night hosted by the Andover Historical Society. Attendees were able to bring one item for Antiques Roadshow regular Stuart Whitehurst to appraise. He delivered the good news to Tikelis.

But once someone finds out such news, then what?

For many, it would be a straight shoot to the home computer and a click on eBay, to cash in on that \$795 profit. Some might even decide to launch an eBay business with that money.

Seriously? Selling on eBay as your business? Could you really make a living doing it?

"Yes, it is possible," said Robert "Bob" Gouveia, who teaches a course about eBay through the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development area at Northern Essex Community College.

But Gouveia said people would need to devote plenty of time to an eBay career and even this eBay expert stopped trying to make a go of it because it required "too many hours."

Gouveia owns an antique store, Kept Treasures Inc. in Dracut, which he opened in August 2000 with his wife. He spent a lot of time researching product history online and then selling it on eBay.

"It's a process," he said. "And, it's like any small business. You need a business plan, you need to know your market and you need to know your products and goods."

"You need plenty of time and for some people it can be a career," he said.

He recently attended a seminar in California for eBay buffs, and met a lawyer from Dallas, Texas who bought about \$30,000 worth of Gucci bags each month from upscale retailers. While she paid about \$400 per bag, she upped the price as she resold them on eBay. Online customers were happy about the shopping convenience, happy to pay for shipping. The Texas lawyer made money.

"It was enough money to supplement her family income and allowed her to be a stay-at-home mom. That's what she wanted, so this eBay career worked for her," he said.

Gouveia said eBay can be an easy place to make money, as plenty of people can purge their household of unused items. Plus, who doesn't like to make a few bucks? Regifting is a tool of this trade, as eBay is the easiest way to unload an unwanted gift for a fast buck, he said.

A simple click on the Web site allows people to create an auction site. Gouveia said taking pictures of products is worthwhile. For those unfamiliar with the widespread phenomenon: People post the photograph with a description and an opening price. They must list the item for seven days.

"It's just like an auction, but no hammer comes down," he said.

The bidding then begins and so does the seven-day waiting period.

"All the action happens in the last five minutes of an auction site. That's when things get sold," he said.

The seller then sends the buyer an invoice after an acceptable pay-



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Virginia Tikelis of Haverhill bought this water pitcher for \$5. For fun, she attended an antiques appraisal event, where the item was appraised for \$800. Those serious about hunting for and selling items online can go into business, says Robert Gouveia, who teaches an eBay course at Northern Essex Community College.

ment is determined. Often, it's a cashier's check or money order. Buyers pay for shipping costs.

"I always wait for the checks to clear before I send a product," said Gouveia, noting that 99 percent of his eBay transactions have been successful and no problems have occurred.

"But there are a lot of steps involved for anyone looking to make a business out of it," he emphasized. "You can say it's

easy, but it is also difficult."

Now, he uses eBay as a sales channel for his antiques business. He explained that some products simply sell better on eBay than in a store like his.

"You do some research to find out these things," he said.

Meanwhile, no one knows if Virginia Tikelis plans to keep her old pitcher. She did not return a telephone call from the Towns-

UPCOMING MV CHAMBER EVENTS

The Merrimack Valley Chamber's Human Resources Association will present "Essentials of Supervision", presented by Sandy Saltamartini, Vice President of Human Resources for TD Banknorth, N.A. on Thursday, March 23 from 8 to 10 a.m. at Jackson's Riverside Restaurant, 478 Lowell St., Route 110, Methuen. A full breakfast is included. The cost is \$20 MVHRA members, \$25 MV Chamber members, and \$35 non-members.

Call 978-686-0900 for more information.

The Merrimack Chamber of Commerce's Government Affairs Committee will present "A Report From The Massachusetts State Senate" on Friday, March 31 from 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. at Sal's Riverwalk Restaurant, 354 Merrimack St., Lawrence. A full breakfast is included. The cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Invited guests include Robert E. Travaglini, President Massachusetts State Senate; Sens. Steven Baddour, Steven Panagiotakos, Sue Tucker, and Bruce Tarr; and special guest moderator Bill Ketter, editor, Eagle Tribune.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce will present "Spring into Business Expo and Job Fair" on Wednesday, April 5 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pat's Function Hall, Alpha/River St., Route 110, Haverhill. Call 978-686-0900 for more information.

COSTANTINO NAMED SHAREHOLDER

Shelley A. Costantino was recently named a shareholder in Schwartz Hannum PC, a labor and employment law firm based in Andover.

Costantino, a graduate of Syracuse University and Fordham University School of Law, joined the firm in 1999. Schwartz Hannum PC, a woman-owned firm founded in 1995, represents employers

locally, and throughout New England and the United States. It specializes in providing labor and employment law representation to management and helping employers achieve their goals, offering a full range of services, including litigation, counseling, labor relations, immigration and government audits and investigations, the company says in a release.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, William A. Hardy, Merrimack Valley regional executive, Sovereign Bank, Andover; Yajaira Blanco, manager of Family Services, the Arc of Greater Lawrence; James R. Warren, vice president, Sovereign Bank, Andover; Robert Harris, president, Class Inc.

Sovereign gives \$10K to Class Inc.

The Sovereign Bank Foundation has awarded Class Inc. a grant for \$10,000 to support the general operations of the Arc of Greater Lawrence. The Sovereign Bank Foundation seeks to enhance the quality of life for individuals served by organizations located in the communities served by Sovereign Bank. The Arc of Greater Lawrence focuses on providing information and advocacy services for individuals with disabilities and their care-

givers. In addition, the Arc provides trainings on residential options, guardianship and future planning. The Arc of Greater Lawrence is a division of Class Inc., which has been providing services to individuals with developmental disabilities since 1976.

"The people at Class care and are making a difference for people who have developmental disabilities. Right here, every day," said James Warren, vice president at Sovereign.

Red Oak Winery



Vintner Frank Spadafora invites you to a Taste of Spring Dinner

DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2006

TIME: 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

COST: \$100 per person, + tax & gratuity

PLACE: Red Oak Winery, 325 North Main St., Middleton, MA

Your evening includes Red Oak Wines paired with a 5 Course Gourmet meal prepared by Chef Nick Schiarizzi, www.domenic-anthony.com

For reservations and full menu, call 978-774-5118 or email redoakwinery@aol.com

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\$200K+/yr
• Company leads provided
• Generate your own
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Office Manager
• Position physical therapist
• Job description: for busy
• Excellent compensation
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Optical
• Full-time position
• Job description: for busy
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Preschool Teacher
• Newburyport Agency seeks
• Full-time position
• Excellent compensation
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Program Director
• Responsible for the overall
• Management of a day
• Excellent compensation
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Home Caregivers
• Newburyport Agency seeks
• CNA's/HHA's/PCAs for
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• Excellent benefits
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LPN/Medic
• Full-time position
• Job description: for busy
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Physical Therapist
• Full-time position
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Billing Asst./Receptionist
• Medical 3rd party billing
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Caregiver Needed
• Family seeks mature person
• To be PT giver to 86 year old
• Mother. Must be experienced
• With dementia. Home available
• In large home in
• Salem, NH. All utilities &
• Meals included. Call Linda 778-
• 979-499 or Ann 603-548-6384

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• Experienced CNA's & HHA's
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• Home. Beverly, Peabody
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PCIA for Disabled Woman
• Living in W. Newbury. Must
• be fluent in Spanish and have
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PCIA needed
• PCIA needed. Danvers, MA. Re-
• sponsible, able to transport, non-
• smoker. Experience re-
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PCIA: Salem, MA. Afternoon shift
• (Noon-4:30). Sunday
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• evenings (4:30-9). Must be energetic
• & strong. Have drivers li-
• cense. 978-774-584

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• P/T, full time. 10.84hour
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• Call John, 978-563-5673

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT
• For disabled man. mornings 9
• Call afternoon time
• Newburyport 978-465-073

PRE-OPACU RN'S
• F/T, P/T Ambulatory Sur-
• gery Center is looking for
• experienced preop nurse. No eve-
• ning, holidays or weekends.
• Candidates must be graduates
• of an accredited school of
• nursing. MA license re-
• quired. ACLS preferred.
• Resume: lawen@bascn.com

RNs & LPNs
• 4 year old in Salisbury With
• G-tube. Tue night. Fri day
• to go to school. Family lives
• 978-372-0002

SCHED'NG COORDINATOR
• With computer experience.
• FT benefits. Call Ann
• 978-922-3662

Administrative Assistant
• Needed for busy construction
• company in Danvers, MA.
• Skills include: ability to han-
• dle phone calls, AP/FP filing,
• and various office duties. Must
• be proficient in Microsoft Of-
• fice & have strong written
• and oral skills. Full time po-
• sition with benefits.
• Send resume with salary
• requirements to
• jobs@mosterson.com or fax
• 978-750-8046

Data Mgmt. Asst.
• Part Time. Provides data
• entry & clerical support for
• Marblehead Real Estate of-
• fice accounting dept. Strong
• typing and computer skills
• required. Monday-Friday
• 9am-5pm. Familiarity with
• Quickbooks a plus.
• Fax resume to: 781-439-2290
• or email to
• loshe@rocketrealtly.com

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• Looking for motivated ft
• personnel in North Reading
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• Must be reliable and
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Landmark
Established North Shore As-
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Certified Home Health Aide
• Job description: for busy
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• Excellent benefits
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WAITSTAFF
• Weekend Days 6pm to 10pm
• Weekdays 4pm to 8pm at work
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• Fax 978-927-4885

FEMALE PCA needed
• for care and housework 7 days
• wk. \$10.84/hr. experienced
• references 978-563-5673 x410

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CHEVY BLAZER 1995 MUST SELL RELOCATING Loaded! Deluxe Model! \$3300. 603-216-1738

CHEVY Blazer, 1996, 4x4, 4 door, \$1,600. Best. Engine trouble. Repair or parts. 978-335-0451.

Chevy Blazer 1998 loaded, 113K, moon roof heated leather seats, oil power, very well maintained \$5000 978-887-2976

CHEVY BLAZER 2001 4WD, red, automatic, 6 cylinder, 85K miles, A/C, CD, excellent condition, \$6,500. 603-327-7260

CHEVY Blazer LS 00 4x4 all power, auto, great condition, \$5500. Call 978-210-9487, 978-879-9991

Chevy Suburban LT 1996 - 4WD Hitch, new tires, leather, CD, ski racks, \$4900. Call 978-685-6279

CHEVY SUBURBAN LT, 1999 - 4WD, pewter, one owner, loaded, great leather, heated seats, 3rd row, trailer package, remote start, etc. Well maintained. \$6,900. Newbury, 617-480-3834.

CHEVY Trailblazer '02, 4x4, Incredible Buy! Green, 52K miles, keyless entry, sunroof, new tires & brakes, low package, excellent condition \$14K. 978-768-3456

DODGE 2000 RAM 2500 Cummins diesel with Fisher plow. Single cab. Low miles. \$18,500. Best offer. 603-382-3102

DODGE Durango, 1999, always maintained, looks & drives excellent. 148K miles, \$4,700. Best. 617-285-6402.

Dodge Grand Caravan 1997 high miles but loaded & in good overall condition. \$2,000 or best offer. 978-809-9799.

DODGE RAM 1999 Club Cab SLT 2500 3/4 ton, 360 engine, 1 owner, loaded, 4x4, mint, original 15K miles, alloys, brand new Linex bedliner, 8' Fisher Minute Mount plow, beautiful black & silver, cost over \$35K, new. Asking \$17,500. Call 603-382-6006.

DODGE RAM 2004 5.7 Hemi Quad cab, 20" wheels, 24K miles, excellent condition. Must sell \$21,900. 603-234-6437

FORD EXPLORER 1997, white, automatic, 6 disc CD, alarm, 170,000 miles. 2000. Call 978-289-3662

FORD Explorer, 1998, Eddie Bauer EX, 85K, fully loaded, \$8500 or best offer. 978-689-3453

FORD EXPLORER 2002 XLT 4x4 Excellent condition, 104K miles, alloy wheels, cruise, running boards, power seat, towing package, A/C, 3rd row seat. \$11,500. 978-502-3494

FORD Explorer XLT, 1994, 4 door, 85K, fully loaded, \$8500 or best offer. 978-689-3453

GMC Jimmy, 2000, 4x4, 2 door, automatic, 55,000 miles. \$5,700. Call 603-818-2282.

230A 4x4s / SUVs

GMC SIERRA 1998 4X4 extended cab, 5 speed, A/C, tilt wheel, cruise control, clean. \$6,000. Best offer. 978-985-4430.

GMC Sierra SLE - 01, AWD, 43K, silver, extended cab, 4 door, 5.3 V8, auto, a/c, 6' bed Tonneau cover, low package, CD, power windows / doors. \$15,500. 978-686-2269

GMC SUBURBAN SL1500 1995 Light gray interior two-tone grey & green exterior power windows & locks satellite set up am/fm/cd pioneer player AC \$4,000 Mike 978-689-3772

HONDA PASSPORT 94 - auto black 4x4, 50K, runs perfect! New tires, CD, sunroof. Private sale \$2800 978-994-8671

HYUNDAI Santa Fe, 2005 - 4WD LX, moonlit blue. Power sunroof, 1 owner, excellent condition. 19K. Asking \$19,000. Call 978-594-5526

JEEP '03 Grand Cherokee Limited 44K miles, V8, 4x4, leather, heated seats, sunroof, low package, under warranty until 7/3K, great condition. \$18,500. Best. Call 978-388-6663

JEEP CHEROKEE, 1996 - 4x4, Jacked Up High output, excellent condition, block, 4" lifts, high miles, \$4,000. Best. 978-335-0600.

JEEP Cherokee Sport 2000 - 4WD, green, 6 cylinder, 4 liter, 5 speed auto, AC, 74K. Power package. Dual air bags, extended warranty to 100K miles. Runs excellent. \$6800 or best offer. 978-526-1882.

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 2004 Special edition package! AWD Black on black! 34K miles, ALL POWER! CD changer, sunroof. Garaged. Excellent condition! \$20,900. 603-362-9381

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 2005 26K package, only 39K miles, light khaki, leather, navigation, sunroof, trailer package, remaining 39K mile factory warranty, clean, excellent condition. \$24,495. 508-735-5429, Windham, NH.

JEEP Grand Cherokee 93: all wheel drive, all power, 132K, garaged. Excellent condition. \$29,950. Best. 978-688-4495

JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 94 - 5 SPEED, 4X4. \$950. 978-688-0860

Jeep Grand Cherokee '99 88K All leather interior, 4 disc CD changer, sunroof, \$10,500. Call 603-244-9528

JEEP Grand Cherokee Ld 01 'V8, rare Woodland Brown, 80K miles, loaded, 10 disc cd, low package, custom grille. 2" lift, well maintained, \$14K. beautiful car. 978-836-6256

JEEP WRANGLER 2000 - auto, A/C, hard & soft tops, AM/FM/CD, 84K miles, excellent condition, \$11,500. Call 978-777-4047

JEEP WRANGLER 2002 - 4 cylinder 5 speed, softtop, dual air bags, CD player, 63K, private sale. Excellent condition \$9400. Best. 978-745-1156

JEEP Wrangler 2005, 6 cylinder, auto, 5000 miles, A/C, CD. Like new! Balance of 2 yr. warranty. Call 12 to 3 p.m. 781-631-0797.

230A 4x4s / SUVs

LAND ROVER, 1997, Discovery, excellent condition, 103K, new brakes, tires, valves. \$6995 or best. North Andover. 978-457-6297.

LEXUS 300RX 2000 SUV 4WD, 83K, sunroof, loaded, 4 new tires. Mint condition. Asking \$21,000. 603-508-2831.

MERCEDES ML400 1999 Loaded! 91K. \$12,500. Best. Call 603-382-5690

NISSAN XTERRA SE 2000, 4WD Auto, 74K miles, full power, excellent condition! \$10,500. 978-281-3091 or 508-284-3111

Olds Bravada '00 4 door, 58K, loaded, leather, moonroof, very well maintained. \$9000. Best offer. Call 603-216-1042

TOYOTA Rav 4, 2000, 148,000 miles, good condition, full power windows/steering, sun roof, \$7,000 or best offer. Call 978-580-9120.

TOYOTA TUNDRA 01 TRD oil power, spray liner, TrakRak, 68K miles. Asking \$15,600. Call 978-500-7781

231 Vans CHEVY ASTRO VAN - 6 seat window van, V-6 engine, all options, tinted windows, trailer hitch, fancy wheels, great shape, but looks & runs great! Asking \$5,900. Call 603-432-5903

Chevy Cube Van 1995, 14 ft. box, new brakes, tires & exhaust system, low miles. \$6,800. 603-919-8909.

CHEVY EXPRESS 1999 2500 - Shelving, ladder rack, V6, 99,000 miles. Runs great. \$7600. Call 978-474-0426.

CHEVY Express Heavy Duty 2500, 2002, V8, automatic, many extras, 1 owner, well maintained, 102,000 highway miles. A/C, condition. \$9,500, or best offer. 603-329-8163

DODGE CARAVAN 1993 Auto, red, runs new! \$1500. Best offer. 978-283-3601

DODGE CARAVAN 95, 130K, A/C, runs good. New transmission, starter and battery \$800. Best. 978-735-9746

DODGE Grand Caravan 1990 190K miles, tinted windows, runs well, but needs some work. \$595 or best offer. 617-753-1214.

DODGE Grand Caravan ES AWD, A/C, ABS brakes, Tilt Wheel, Cruise, Power Everything, Leather Interior, CD Seats 7! Runs GREAT - Well Maintained. KBB lists at \$3800, asking \$2300. Best offer. Call 603-442-3130 before 1 pm, or 508-641-6358 after 1 pm.

DODGE RAM 1990 71K, runs excellent. Must sell. \$999. Call Keith at 603-382-9160.

DODGE RAM 1994 Van 2500 Auto, good condition, high-way miles. A/C. \$2900. 781-258-0002, 978-744-8888

DODGE Van, 1986, 6 cylinder, new tires, many new parts, dependable, needs emissions work. \$800. 978-979-8507

FORD E-250 Escalade Van 12-Seat Shuttle Van Good condition. Raised roof, cruise control, 13K miles. Asking \$9500. 978-546-6506

231 Vans

FORD E 350 1993 CUBE VAN, 15' box, 3' attic, pull-out ramp, 10K, well maintained. \$3,500. Best. Phil. 978-465-2595.

FORD ECONOLINE 1992 with raised roof. Runs well. For sale for parts only. \$1,550. Needs some exhaust work for road worthiness & inspection. 978-251-2747.

FORD Econoline Cargo Van, 1995, runs good, no rust - no rot, good work vehicle, \$2,300 or best. 978-685-7121

GMC SAFARI, 2000, AWD, 89K miles, 8 passenger, green, Michelin tires. Great condition. \$5,500. 978-462-2833

GMC Safari SL, 1999, V-6, 2WD, 85K miles, loaded, CD, rear heat/A/C, excellent condition. \$4,890. 978-374-5913.

GMC Vandura, 1993, 1 ton, new motor, brakes, equipped with van mounted Butler carpet steam extraction system. \$2,800. 603-674-9452

Be Your Own Boss HONDA ODYSSEY EX MINIVAN, 2000 - 73,300 miles, good condition, 1 owner, \$11,990. Best offer. 603-894-5517

MERCUY Villager 2000 Mini-Van, 53K, red custom factory paint, beige cloth interior, V-6 Nissan engine, automatic, all power, keyless entry, alarm, moonroof, 6 disc CD, like new condition, recent brakes & shocks, have maintenance receipts, runs perfect, needs nothing. \$7,399. 978-346-8886.

PLYMOUTH Voyager LE '91 all wheel drive, 6 cylinder, 171K miles looks/runs good seats 7, 3 1/2 firm. 978-223-2416

PONTIAC Transport, 1998, Montana Edition, auto, dual sliding doors, leather, A/C, great miles. \$3,500. 603-944-3000

231A Auto Dealers CHEVY Cavalier, 2002, Two to choose from, very clean. #1 2002/5SL & 2004/2L. \$6,395.

CHEVY Malibu LS, 2005, Blue with grey velour, loaded, 29K miles. \$11,495.

VW Jetta GL Sedan, 2002, A/C, 5 speed, very clean, 55K miles. \$2060/1L. \$11,495.

OLDSMOBILE Alero Sedan, 2004, Auto, power windows & locks, 39K miles. \$2060/1L. \$9,995.

CHEVY Impala LS Sedan, 2002, nice, clean car, 86K miles. \$2052/3A. Loaded. \$8,495.

CHEVY Cobalt LS, 2005, One owner, real clean car, power windows & locks. 5K miles. \$2062/1L. \$13,575.

VW Beetle GLS, 2002, Turbo Diesel, 50 mpg, certified pre owned, 4 door, 35K miles. \$18,995.

CHEVY Malibu Classic Sedan, 2004, Loaded, 4 to 4 choose from, very clean. \$2053/42. \$10,595.

YEO Chevrolet, VW Rte. 114, Amesbury, MA Call Dave Prescott (978) 388-0861 www.yeocars.com

231A Auto Dealers CHEVY S10 2002 Pick-up Stock #6170. \$7,995 CADILLAC Deville 1997 Stock #24875. \$7,995 BUICK CENTURY 2001 Stock #6170. \$8,995 FORD F150 1999 EXT Stock #6322. \$9,995 GMC SIERRA 2002 pick-up - Stock #25484. \$11,900 HONDA Accord 2005 Stock #25457. \$11,900 MAZDA3 i 2003 Stock #6144. \$14,900 BUICK LeSabre 2005 Stock #25355. \$14,900 TOYOTA Camry LE 2005 Stock #25467. \$15,900

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232 Motorcycles/Accessories

HONDA SHADOW 1983 500cc V-twin, 4 cylinder. VERY low miles, red, rolling chassis parts bike with it. \$2,500. 978-374-0970.

HONDA Shadow Ace. 2002, 750 cc, 17,000 miles, purple and silver, mini condition, runs great, windshield, bags, running boards, backrest. \$4,500. Best offer. 978-283-9602.

HONDA Shadow Ace 96 V-T100. Black, Cobra exhaust, mustang feet, new tires, bike cover, 2 sets saddle bags, service manual, 2 helmets. \$2,500. 978-977-0342.

HONDA Shadow Spirit 750, 2000, black, iet kit, Cobra pipes, 500 miles, like new, \$5,000. Best. 978-375-9578.

KAWASAKI Nomad 2002 774 miles, excellent condition, 2 sets of pipes, driver and passenger backrests, and more. \$9,000. Best offer. Leave message 978-682-4313.

232 Motorcycles/Accessories

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1-800-863-8774

MOTORCYCLE Rain Suit, Men's XL Harley Davidson two piece suit. New. \$75. 978-618-0913.

SUZUKI INTRUDER VOLUSIA 2002 805cc, black, great shape! Asking \$4500. 603-887-7112.

SUZUKI RM 250, 2001 MUST SEE \$2,300 firm 978-702-4455

TRIUMPH 2000 LEGEND Motorcycle 900 cc, less than 4,000 miles on bike by one owner. Looks new, black with chrome spoke wheels. Stored indoors for 2 years. \$3500. Call 603-505-0004.

232 Motorcycles/Accessories

MOTORCYCLE HELMET HJC Model FG9, Blue, Size 7 3/8 - 7 5/8, \$50. 978-463-8275.

MOTORCYCLE Rain Suit, Men's XL Harley Davidson two piece suit. New. \$75. 978-618-0913.

SUZUKI INTRUDER VOLUSIA 2002 805cc, black, great shape! Asking \$4500. 603-887-7112.

SUZUKI RM 250, 2001 MUST SEE \$2,300 firm 978-702-4455

TRIUMPH 2000 LEGEND Motorcycle 900 cc, less than 4,000 miles on bike by one owner. Looks new, black with chrome spoke wheels. Stored indoors for 2 years. \$3500. Call 603-505-0004.

232 Motorcycles/Accessories

Triumph Daytona 2002 CENTENNIAL 955i. HAS ONLY 369 MILES! New Aftermarket Exhaust Asking \$6,500. 603-642-8253.

YAMAHA, 1995, XJ600, Seca II, black, excellent shape. New battery & front rear tires. \$2,000. 603-216-1578.

YAMAHA 2002 Virago XV250 CRUISER, 3850 miles black, \$2400. Excellent condition, perfect 1st bike. 978-794-1464.

YAMAHA Seca650 1982 Only 6400 original miles, does not run, needs card work, tires & other minor repairs. \$750. Best. Call Brian 978-423-1483.

236 Heavy Equipment CASE 580B Extend A Hoe Construction King, 1974, 12 ton, 2 WD, runs excellent. \$11,000. Best. 978-750-8859.

236 Heavy Equipment

SKID STEER, New Holland 1985: 455, new 5' bucket, runs good. Great for snow removal or landscaping. \$4800. 603-382-3248 cell 603-303-2990.

1995 CAT DIESEL KODIAK 7500 Chevvy, bucket free truck, goes up to 60 mph, re-conditioned with dump body, 21,000 GVW, excellent condition inspected & certified on 5/4/05; with a Woodchuck shredder, 4 cylinder diesel, with hydraulic auto feeder, runs great. \$42,000. Best offer. Call 978-750-8859.

237 Boats & Accessories BOAT DOCKAGE, up to 40' Boat Sales & Service Open 7 days - Larry's Marina Amesbury 978-388-5111.

BOAT SLIPS & LAND STORAGE available at Ferry Landing Marine on the Merrimack River in Newburyport, MA. Call 978-465-9110.

Fiberglass Boat 15-16ft Fiberglass Boat with trailer. Engine needs work. You pick up. Moving, must go. FREE (603)432-5042.

237 Boats & Accessories

CANOE 18' Old Town, birch pattern, with paddles, & motor mount, great condition. \$550 firm. 603-887-2387.

CENTURY 2100 22' CENTER CONSOLE, 2000 - \$19,500. 150 Yamaha EFI Saltwater Series with low hours, T-Top with Electronics Box and Flood Lights, Fish Finder/Depth Finder, Live Well, 22 Gallon Boat Tank, 2000 Alpic Trail Tandem Trailer. Call Steve 617-794-7100.

DONZI, 18'3", 1996, 182 Medallion bowrider, 185 Mer-cruiser, 4.3L Alpha 1, mint condition & professionally maintained! Low hours. Depthfinder, fish finder, AM/FM cassette. \$8,500. 978-532-0476.

Fiberglass Boat 15-16ft Fiberglass Boat with trailer. Engine needs work. You pick up. Moving, must go. FREE (603)432-5042.

Fiberglass Boat 15-16ft Fiberglass Boat with trailer. Engine needs work. You pick up. Moving, must go. FREE (603)432-5042.

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NEW PRICE!

ANDOVER - \$164,900
Winning combination of move-in condition, convenient commuter location and great price! Upbeat, top floor, corner unit with south & west exposure. Neutral decor, fully appointed kitchen, nice extras, pool & tennis, small pets ok.

Call Mary Reynolds
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$255,000 & \$265,000

Two bedroom Town House condo for sale in this lovely Shawshen Village Colonial that backs up to town recreation field, 5 room unit with a 3rd floor 17x17 bonus room. Walk to shops and public transportation.

Call Roberta Plati
978-475-2201



HAVERHILL - \$265,000

This half-duplex coned has it all! Gorgeous neutral decor, open & airy with cathedral ceilings and skylights galore, pristine condition. Fabulous lower level walkout family room with hot tub, built-in TV and bar and 1/2 bath.

Call Sue Shepard
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$269,900

Always wanted to live in a mansion? Here's your chance! Beautiful updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo, freshly painted, master bedroom with new w/w, garage parking - choice!

Call Zoreh Romano
978-687-4465



NORTH ANDOVER - \$279,900

Village Green - freshly painted 5 room Town House with new kitchen, updated 1.5 baths, new windows & ceiling fans, and finished lower level with laundry. Also, larger yard than most with privacy. Fee includes heat & pool.

Call Bernadette Gibson
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$329,900

Breathtaking pond views from this newly painted 5 room Town House with 2 car garage under. Fully appointed unit with fireplace living room, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, deck and patio. Prime location with in Millpond!

Call Wayne Ghirardini
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$379,900

Great opportunity to build equity! 11 room 2-family in move-in condition. 2 bedroom unit totally redone with new maple kitchen, pine floors. 3 bedroom unit with wide pine floors. Walk to train & town.

Call Deb Kesio
978-475-2201



BRADFORD - \$379,900

Immaculate 3 bedroom Cape featuring beautifully updated cherry cabinet kitchen, fireplace living room, dining room, all new HW on 1st floor, 2.5 baths, den, finished lower level, large deck/patio overlooks gunite pool!

Call Joanne Sulis
978-475-2201



HAVERHILL - \$379,900

One of a kind 4-level Town House with 8 rooms, 3 bedrooms, 3 full plus 2 half baths. Fireplaced family room with skylights, updated kitchen, 20' deck of living room, 2nd family room with built-ins in walkout lower level.

Call Ellen Yurko
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$389,000

Best unit in the complex! 6 room end unit in private location at back of complex. New maple kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, 2.5 tile baths, newer neutral w/w, attached garage, patio, C/A - nothing to do but move in!

Call Jeannette Belben
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$389,900

Charming Cape with open feel. Cathedral ceiling fireplaced living room with skylights & pegged floor, newer kitchen & appliances, 1st floor master, 2 baths, bright finished walkout lower level, big deck, acre lot.

Call Ellen Yurko
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$394,900

Charming Antique 7 rooms renovated from top to bottom, fresh paint, new w/w, new kitchen, vaulted ceiling master bedroom, 3 baths. Located in Ballardvale center walking distance to train, playground and elementary school.

Call Ellen Munick
978-475-2201



METHUEN - \$399,900

Beautifully restored and meticulously maintained home featuring gorgeous Craftsmanship style woodwork and many built-ins some with leaded glass, gleaming wood floors, 2 sun porches, 2 car garage - a choice property!

Call Ann Marie Fogg
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$429,900

Absolutely immaculate ranch in close to town neighborhood! Many updates include modern kitchen and baths, hardwoods, fireplace, garage, huge level private lot all within a mile of Routes 495 and 93. Move right in!

Call Jeannette Belben
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$439,900

Shawshen Village 3 bedroom Dutch Colonial with fireplace, dining room with built-ins, 1.5 updated baths, updated kitchen, new windows, French doors to brick patio and large yard with cedar fence and arbor.

Call Roberta Plati
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$459,900

New Price! Freshly painted 3-4 bedroom Split with 2 fireplaces, 2.5 baths, large screened porch overlooks acre lot on cul-de-sac, 2 car garage. Located near town, schools, commuter routes. Title Five approved.

Call Donna Shay
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$469,900

What a charmer! Totally updated 7 room, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Colonial with high ceilings, fireplace and built-ins galore. Many updates include new kitchen, new 1/2 bath, new deck, roof & paint. Near town & commuter routes.

Call Jeannette Belben
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$499,000

Attention investors! Fabulous in-town 2 family with beautifully renovated first floor unit - granite counters, stainless steel appliances, all new windows, flooring and carpeting. Five rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath in each unit.

Call Lora Horsley
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$504,900

9 room Colonial on private acre lot with large level backyard. Fireplaced family room opens to tile floor sunroom with huge deck beyond, maple kitchen with Cambria counters, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths.

Call Colette Fanuele
978-687-6267



NO ANDOVER - \$514,900

1st ad! Exciting 3 bedroom Contemporary Colonial in popular Hickory Hill neighborhood. Soaring ceilings, lots of sunlight, hardwood floors, fireplaced living room, cathedral ceiling master, open design living!

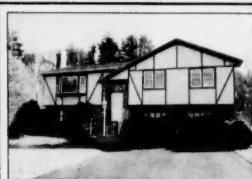
Call Donna Shay
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$519,900

Location! Handsome 4 bedroom, 2.5 Split Entry with open feel, 2 fireplaces, big family room, 2 car garage, large level lot with town services near town, schools and commuter routes.

Call Bunny Maren
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$529,900

7 room, 3-bedroom, 2.5 bath Split Entry home at end of cul-de-sac in wonderful neighborhood close to town! Hardwood floors, freshly painted inside, new deck overlooking private backyard that abuts conservation land.

Call Laurie Liffmann
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$549,900

In-town convenience! Delightful 4-5 bedroom Dutch Colonial with up-dated kitchen, gleaming wood floors, high ceilings, C/A, rich moldings, 1.5 baths, finished 3rd floor, detached garage.

Call Joan Ponti
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$564,000

Open foyer 8 room Colonial on 3+ acre lot in beautiful country setting. Open kitchen/family room with fireplace, 2.5 baths, finished walk-up attic, screened porch and deck overlook spacious woodlot.

Call Terri Goodridge
978-687-4465



NORTH ANDOVER - \$565,000

This is the one you've been waiting for! 8 room, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath Colonial on acre+ lot with wonderful privacy. Central air, lots of hardwood, security, screened porch & patio to enjoy the idyllic setting!

Call Colette Fanuele
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$569,900

Shawshen Village Brick Section! Classic 3 bedroom Colonial with fireplace, crown moldings, built-ins, 2.5 baths, gleaming wood floors, screened porch, 2 car garage, private fenced yard with patio.

Call Donna Shay
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$579,900

Near the Olde Center! Spacious 9 room custom Colonial with lots of hardwood flooring, C/A, 3.5 baths, fireplaced family room plus beautiful finished lower level with full bath and triple slide to level 1/2 acre lot.

Call Joan Ponti
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$574,900

8 room Multi-level in popular Carriage Chase area, walk to Sanborn School and minutes from Rte. 93. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, lots of hardwood, 2 car garage plus separate 2 car garage with large workshop.

Call Marilyn Burke
978-687-4465



ANDOVER - \$699,900

Immaculate thoughtfully updated Colonial with 9 rooms, 4 bedrooms, updated Corian kitchen, 2.5 updated baths, heated sunroom with sliders to patio & deck, family room with cherry walls & built-ins, C/A, much more!

Call Ariene Santangelo
978-687-4465



GEORGETOWN - \$699,900

Meticulously maintained 9 room Contemporary Colonial on nearly an acre lot. Beautiful granite kitchen, 2.5 updated baths, finished lower level, exceptional construction, 3-season sunroom, heated pool!

Call Rose Retelle
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$709,900

12 room Colonial on 4+ acres on private drive with 2 other homes. Smashing decor, soaring cathedral ceiling fireplaced great room, separate entrance to 3 room in-law/au pair, 4-season sunroom with hot tub.

Call Cheryl McNally
978-475-2201



NORTH ANDOVER - \$755,000

Corner built 8 room Colonial with finished lower level, cathedral ceiling fireplaced family room with palladian windows, gleaming hardwood floors, desirable cul-de-sac location.

Call Ellen Munick
978-475-2201



ANDOVER - \$759,900

Best new construction value in town! 10 room Colonial featuring an open foyer, all hardwood on 1st floor, 9' ceilings up and down, cathedral ceiling family room, C/A, 2 full & 2 half baths.

Call Jeannette Belben
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THE BACK PAGE

Andover's amazing chestnut tree



COURTESY PHOTO

David Dargie and Bill Dalton stand next to Andover's rare American chestnut tree. Dargie is holding a branch with chestnuts attached to it.



Bill Dalton

This week, three of us visited Andover's amazing American chestnut tree.

In January, I wrote about the almost total extermination of American chestnut trees caused by an airborne blight in the first half of the 20th Century. The American chestnut was the dominant tree in Andover and much of the eastern United States. It was known for its flavorful nut and unsurpassed wood quality. It was economically important to the rural East.

The search for mature American chestnut trees, capable of assisting in reproduction, is ongoing and such finds are rare. The American Chestnut Foundation uses such trees to help create a blight resistant tree that will again become the dominant tree in the East. I mentioned that my Dad used to take my brothers and me walking in Andover woods at mid century, on constant lookout for a surviving tree. We never found one.

Over a month ago, I wrote that David Dargie sent an informative e-mail about American chestnut trees. Dargie is the AVIS land manager and warden of the Bessie Goldsmith Woodlands. I also noted that one reader, who seemed particularly knowledgeable, said that there was a live American chestnut tree in Andover. Well aware of the blight's devastation, he was surprised to find the tree many years ago. I finished that column saying that this gentleman would lead me to the tree on my next trip to Andover.

Just before the trip, he sent me another e-mail mentioning that the tree now has a small sign on it identifying it as an American chestnut tree.

Well, I looked at the tree a few days ago. Dave

DeInnocentis is the fellow who spotted the tree years ago, and he wants to make it clear that he is not an expert on such matters; he light-heartedly refers to himself as an "observant dogwalker." Our schedules didn't mesh, and I was unable to meet him at the tree; however, he provided explicit directions.

My wife and I picked up Dargie and the three of us visited the tree. The directions to it were simple, and as soon as Dargie saw the tree from a distance he recognized that it was an American chestnut. When we got close enough to see the small sign, we read that it had been tacked to the tree by National Grid, the electric power company. I thought it odd that the power company would have done this, but more about that in a moment.

The tree stands like an old, tired giant with most of its branches broken from years of hard weather. Its bark wears numerous scars, and the tree looks like it is not going to live much longer. Yet, although it is in rough shape, chestnuts were around it on the ground as well as some dried blossoms from last spring. These indicated that the tree still is capable of reproduction and remains valuable to the American Chestnut Foundation.

Why had this tree survived? Four billion American chestnut trees were killed by the blight. Is there something exceptional about this Andover tree that has resisted the blight? If it weren't for these rare survivors, the American chestnut tree wouldn't have a chance for a comeback.

I never thought that visiting a tree would make me so happy, but all three of us were excited. I opened one of the soggy nuts that had fallen off the tree months ago. I wanted to get a taste of it. It tasted...well, soggy; but I also noted a slight sweetness.

So, Andover has its American chestnut tree,

although it is possible that the tree actually is in North Andover. As David Dargie observed, it is very close to the town line (the tree is in Harold Parker State Forest). In any event, after my wife took a picture of David and me next to the tree, we walked away and I said aloud, "I think my father would have given an arm to have seen this tree."

A couple of days ago, I spoke to a retired aborist who used to work for what is now called National Grid. Also, he serves on the Massachusetts board of directors of the American Chestnut Foundation. The tree was identified as a "mother tree" by the Foundation long enough ago that they have been able to harvest blossoms from it and use them with other surviving chestnut trees to create seeds. He was not sure how the tree came to be located, but said that National Grid works with the foundation to identify mother trees so that the foundation can use such trees to develop blight-resistant trees. He said that power companies might originally have been interested in the American chestnut because the power line poles once were made from American chestnut wood. The wood was so hard and rot-resistant that it didn't need to be chemically treated.

Very interestingly, he said that there will soon be a major nursery in North Andover that will grow one of the new lines of American chestnut trees. This is not easy work, and he noted that if the nursery planted 300 trees, perhaps only six would mature enough to be useful to the future development of the American chestnut. Former President Jimmy Carter has an American chestnut nursery on his property in Georgia.

If you are interested, here is how you can find Andover's American chestnut tree: go to Harold Parker on Salem Street, park at the Berry Pond picnic area gate, walk past the stone kiosk and keep your eyes to the right looking for a small white sign tacked to the tree.

Bill Dalton invites readers' comments at bill-dalton@billdaltononline.com.

POLICE LOG

LOG

Continued from page 2

Unauthorized use of her credit card.
Friday, March 10 - At 3:20 p.m., a caller reported a stolen snowblower.

At 3:28 p.m., a resident reported a stolen wallet.

At 4:42 p.m., there was a report of cell phone, necklace and jacket

stolen on River Road.

Saturday, March 11 - At 9:57 a.m., police received a report of tires slashed at Andover High School. A front license plate was stolen sometime.

Monday, March 13 - At 2:14 p.m., police received a report of a \$100 counterfeit bill that was passed on Saturday night.

At 4:50 p.m., a resident reported identify theft.

Tuesday, March 14 - At 5:37 p.m., a resident reported that her wallet was stolen from the library sometime between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

BREAKS

Saturday, March 11 - At 1:39

a.m., police received a 911 call for a subject trying to break into an apartment window. A resident reported that a male in a gray hooded sweatshirt was on a window sill trying to remove the screen. An officer reported that the male was the daughter's boyfriend and he was unaware that his girlfriend was not sleeping in her room.

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2003 CLK320	Silver/Char	Cabriolet	2003 E320	Black/Black	Sedan	\$38,500
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